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13 December 1984

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ISTANBUL PATRIARCH'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 14 Nov 84 pp 1,4

[Text] Early this morning, we established contact with the hotel in Washington where the Armenian Patriarch of Turkey is staying and we talked first to Vartabed Mesrob Mutafian, Secretary of the Patriarchate, and then with the Holy Father himself. We found His Holiness in a good and cheerful mood. He told us that although he felt a little tired he was happy because his visits were proceeding successfully. The Holy Patriarch conveyed his love and blessings to our community and expressed his happiness for the fact that everything is normal here.

The Holy Patriarch had another full day yesterday with fruitful contacts.

At 10:00 am yesterday, 13 November 1984, the Holy Father and Vartabed Mesrob Mutafian were received by Turkish Ambassador in Washington Sukru Elekdag. The Turkish envoy received the Armenian primate of Turkey with full honors. The meeting which lasted for 45 minutes was held in an intimate atmosphere. Ambassador Elekdag recalled that ties between Armenians and Turks were very strong during his childhood years. He said that he was born in Ortakoy where Armenians, Turks and Greeks lived in harmony and built strong ties among themselves. [He added:] "That was the time when the Republic was declared. These brotherly ties have continued during the Republican period as they have throughout history."

The Ambassador continued: "But as you know, outside forces sowed seeds of enmity between the two peoples and caused a series of disasters which, naturally, affected the relations between the two nations."

The Ambassador then noted that relations between the two peoples have been tense in the last two decades and asked His Holiness about his thoughts on the causes of this general trend.

In his reply, the Holy Father first expressed his happiness for having accomplished this visit. The Holy Patriarch then reassured the Ambassador that ties between the two peoples in Turkey remain strong and brotherly today and added that incidents overseas unfortunately overshadow these relations of goodneighborliness and mutual welfare. He also stated that no matter how uncomfortable we feel in the event of such incidents our benevolent government

makes every effort and takes every step to protect Armenian institutions and individuals from any possible harm. The Holy Father expressed his gratitude to the government for these measures.

Commenting on the state of Turkish-Armenian relations overseas in the last few decades, the Holy Patriarch said that he sees a parallelism between the terrorism that engulfed Turkey five years ago and the preceding period and the acts of Armenian terrorism committed against Turkish diplomats overseas. He added that it is possible to say that if the causes and sources hidden behind the terrorism in Turkey are ever uncovered the causes of the Armenian terrorist movements and incidents abroad would also be found out.

The meeting ended at 10:00 am [as published]. This intimate meeting was also attended by several embassy officials and Vartabed Mesrob Mutafian. The Holy Patriarch thanked the Ambassador and departed.

Meeting with Elliott Abrams

An hour later, the Holy Father, once again accompanied by Vartabed Mesrob Mutafian, went to the U.S. State Department and met with Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Elliott Abrams. This meeting lasted about half an hour and was held in a cordial atmosphere. During the meeting, the Patriarch reassured Mr Abrams that most of the difficulties encountered by the Armenian community [in Turkey] in the past have been resolved thanks to efforts undertaken by the current administration [in Turkey]. He added that if there are any minor problems they will surely be resolved by the good will of the government through the dialog that has been established recently.

Elliott Abrams expressed pleasure at what he heard and wished success and a safe journey home to the Armenian Patriarch of Turkey.

In Holy Mother of God Church

At 7:30 pm yesterday, the Holy Patriarch entered the Holy Mother of God Church in Washington which was filled with believers. Present in the church were Deputy Prelate Bishop Papken Varjabedian, Vartabed Mesrob Mutafian and Spiritual Shepherd Priest Vrtanes Kalayjian. The spiritual shepherd of the church welcomed the Holy Patriarch and asked for his blessings on behalf of his flock.

The Holy Patriarch reciprocated with his blessings and conveyed to the congregation the greetings of our community. After religious ceremonies, a reception was held in the church hall during which speeches were delivered by Parish Council Chairman Mikayel Tashjian, former Istanbul Armenian intellectual Abraham Bodurgil--who recently published a book on Ataturk's memoirs--Priest Vrtanes Kalayjian and Bishop Papken. The closing words were delivered by the Holy Father who focused on three points: A) During the days when a site was being sought for this church, he too participated in the work as the spiritual leader of New Jersey and as a Vartabed. B) The Holy Patriarch then briefed the audience about the current state of our community, and, emphasizing our schools, he said that we are keeping them alive despite financial difficulties. C) The Holy Patriarch once again condemned terrorism and said that terrorism can only harm the Armenian nation.

After the reception, the guests kissed His Holiness' hand and expressed their joy for meeting His Reverence.

The Holy Patriarch and Father Mesrob will leave the United States late tonight for London. Turkish Ambassador Sukru Elekdag will give a dinner in honor of the Holy Patriarch before his departure.

The Holy Father will probably arrive in Turkey at 4:00 pm on 27 November.

9588

CSO: 4605/35

INCREASE IN LPG EXPORTS ANTICIPATED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 28, 5 Nov 84 pp 8, 9

[Text]

Algeria hopes to more than double exports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) this year and to increase condensate export by 50,000 b/d, to 350,000 b/d, Youcef Yousfi, vice-president of Sonatrach, has told Opecna.

The proposed increases in both LPG and condensate exports are an attempt by Algeria to diversify its hydrocarbon industry in the light of the present overproduction of oil. Between 1980-83, hydrocarbons generated \$47bn in revenue. While crude oil accounted for more than 50 per cent of all hydrocarbon exports in 1980, contributing 61 per cent of the state budget, by 1983 its share had dropped to 25 per cent of hydrocarbon exports and 46 per cent of the budget. The remaining hydrocarbon exports in 1983 were made up of condensates (27 per cent), liquefied gas (22 per cent) and refined products (22 per cent).

Algerian exports to Africa increased from 108,000 tonnes in 1979, to 883,000 tonnes in 1983. Algeria also drilled three oil wells for Tanzania and aided 14 African countries in refining, and provided

advice on the legal and trade aspects of oil exploration.

The Italian firm Nuovo Pignone, will provide two gas reinjection units, with 10mn cubic metres of daily capacity, at Hassi Majoud. The \$72mn contract, signed following Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's recent visit to Italy, sets completion of the units within 28 months.

Another contract, awarded to the Italian firm Lavori Edili Stradale is for the construction of the Ain Dalia dam near Souk Ahras. The contract is worth \$59mn. The dam, aided by a \$108mn loan from the Saudi Development Fund, will hold 82mn cubic metres of water for irrigation, drinking and industrial purposes.

For the five dams in the Jijel area, the Algerian hydraulics ministry has awarded a 10-month contract to Brazil's Promon Engenharia for geological studies on proposed sites, including Bouadjou, Bou-siaba, El-Kasir, Irdgana and Tabellot.

CSO: 4500/24

JOINT VENTURE IN OIL-EXPLORATION NOTED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No. 28, 5 Nov 84 pp 7,8

[Text]

Sudan, in a bid to inject some life into its suspended oil-exploration and production programme, has agreed with the Saudi Arabian multi-millionaire Adnan Khashogji to pay a half-share in the exploitation of the country's oil and mineral resources. The agreement inaugurates the recently-created National Oil Company of Sudan, which is effectively a joint-venture between the Sudanese government and Mr Khashogji's Sigma company.

The new agreement hands over to the company the Sudanese government's existing interests in oil-exploration and production agreements, negotiating rights for future oil agreements and all activities associated with refineries, shipping and the storage of oil. The agreement makes no specific reference to third-party rights, such as those enjoyed by existing exploration companies, but a separate Presidential Decree will allow the government to take over the rights of an exploration company if, for example, it refuses to undertake normal operations. This is exactly the position in which Chevron, the leading foreign oil company in Sudan, currently finds itself.

One important indication of the importance attached to the new venture, particularly in the current circumstances in Sudan, is the suspension of two articles of Islamic law: the company will be exempted from income tax and will be allowed to pay and charge interest on loans. All taxes, customs duties and other levies have been waived for the company, which also enjoys full rights to repatriate earnings and capital.

One of the company's major tasks will be to provide finance for exploration and production work. The company will set up a wholly-owned finance subsidiary to provide export guarantees and letters of credit. The subsidiary will be capitalised at \$400mn.

No formal reason has been given for the establishment of the new oil company but the decision clearly reflects two vital concerns. One: President Numeiri is desperate to re-start exploration and production work in the south and southwest of the country by Chevron, the principal concessionaire.

Chevron suspended operations in February — along with CCI, the French engineering consortium building the Jonglei Canal — because of the breakdown in security in the region.

President Numeiri is also concerned at his country's worsening economic situation, which has become more critical during the current drought in Sahelian Africa. Oil now seems to be the only way out of Sudan's desperate impasse.

While foreign aid and the various rescheduling agreements for Sudan's nine-billion-dollar external debt continue, donors in the United States and some Arab countries are reported to have threatened to suspend or stop aid unless President Numeiri takes political measures to quell the current unrest in the south of the country.

President Numeiri last month announced an agreement with southern dissidents to restore the government's authority in the disturbed part of the

southern region. The agreement follows the ending of the five-month state of emergency on September 29th and the president's announced willingness to restore the unity of the recently-divided southern region, which has been a bone of contention in the area.

However, there is less to the announcements than meets the eye. On the one hand, the peace agreement with southern dissidents involved only one faction — the smallest — in the Sudan People's Liberation Front, which is an umbrella movement rather than a coherent political organisation. At the same time, the president's reported willingness to see the reunification of the south and the re-emergence of a regional government has not been accompanied by any sign that he is also prepared to restore the south's former semi-autonomous status. Without this, the new southern region government risks becoming more emasculated than the existing tiers of administration already are.

On the other hand, the Islamisation of Sudan's

legal and economic systems is going ahead and it is this, more than any other single development, that has pushed non-Muslims into confrontation with the central government. Nor is Islamisation widely welcomed among the majority Muslim community...

The co-option of Mr Khashogji into the government's fight for economic survival seems to have other implications. Firstly, it can be seen as a sign that Saudi Arabia is putting its support behind the Sudanese leader — Mr Khashogji is close to the Saudi ruling house. Secondly, Mr Khashogji, a man of considerable dynamism and resource and with a global network of contacts, can be expected to act as the catalyst to get Sudan's oil sector moving again.

However, to regard the economy as rechargeable simply by focusing on the oil sector seems to leave out of the equation the political context within which the economic breakdown is occurring. It is typical of the government's response to the breakdown that it should ask Britain to train an elite security force, but not look to the political process as a way of allowing Sudan's much-vaunted unity-within-diversity, to flourish.

CSO: 4500/24

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER MZALI DISCUSSES POLITICAL SITUATION

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 79, 13 Oct 84 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of interior, by Rashid Khishanah: "There Is no Division Between the State and Party; Most Tunisians Are Destourians"; Tunis, date unspecified]

[Text] Each time AL-TADAMUN has met with Mohamed Mazli, prime minister of the Republic of Tunisia, he generously has given it a great deal of time, even though he has very little time and many distractions. This has made it possible to raise questions of interest to the man on the street in Tunisia in particular, and in the Maghreb and Arab spheres in general. This interview took place before the recent dramatic developments of renewed relations between Jordan and Egypt. In this interview AL-TADAMUN focused more on the internal affairs of Tunisia, without ignoring the Arab situation. Perhaps the reason for this focus is attributable to the fact that the Arab Maghreb region itself is pregnant with many developments. An examination of the conditions of each country there will help in understanding the overall picture. Here is the text of the interview with Mohamed Mzali:

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, we will begin with a question about the status of the Arab Maghreb following recent events there concerning the Moroccan-Libyan union. It is well-known that Tunisia and Algeria are bound by a treaty, the treaty of concord and brotherhood. Morocco and Libya now have another treaty, the Oujda treaty. Don't you think that the existence of two distinct groups in the Arab Maghreb may draw the region into a policy of axes and eliminate the likelihood of agreement and rapprochement?

[Answer] Our positions on the problem of building the Greater Arab Maghreb and on the necessity of striving to achieve the unity of the Arab nation are well-known and have been since before independence in the days when our leader Habib Bourguiba was in the Arab East in 1945. We do not believe in the policy of axes, but at the same time we welcome every positive initiative which tends to bring the countries of the region closer and strengthen solidarity and integration among them, because we think that is a new step taken on the path toward achieving greater rapprochement and unity among components of the Arab Maghreb.

[Question] Do you think that conditions have become ripe for convening the Arab summit, postponed last year, or are the chances for holding it still remote?

[Answer] The chances of convening the Arab summit are the pawn of the conditions which must be met for this purpose. They are also the pawn of the general political climate in the Arab homeland, in other words, how willing Arab officials are to overcome certain conflicts and join hands to deal with the challenges facing the Arab nation and threatening its independence, honor and destiny. Hence it is possible for the Arab summit to be convened and succeed if there is sufficient genuine intention to work for the general good, overcome conflicts and shape a common destiny. However, we are still far from meeting these conditions.

Here I am concerned with pointing out that thanks to the wisdom of President Habib Bourguiba, Tunisia has not stopped calling for political and moral awakening which preserves us from the evil of futile conflicts and disputes and for refraining from any word or deed which may make wounds deeper and widen the abyss between us. Also, Tunisia has not stopped calling for the strengthening of Arab solidarity. It therefore encourages and supports every initiative which truly aims at closing the gaps among Arabs, making them speak as one and uniting their efforts to support their causes and to insure a better tomorrow for the rising generations of Arabs.

[Question] Let us move on to Tunisian conditions and affairs and begin with a question about the recent changes in the government which occurred in 1984. They included governors, delegates and general directors of certain banking and economic institutions. The question is, what is the reason for these many changes?

[Answer] You know that the regime in Tunisia is a presidential, republican regime. In other words, the head of state has the first and final say in choosing the people to whom he assigns certain functions in order to implement the policy which he decides and plans and for which he lays the foundations. In addition, I would like to say that Tunisia is unlike certain nations and regimes, whether in the Third World or the East or West. The changes which President Habib Bourguiba makes in the government or in any other apparatus, governors or presidents and general directors for example, is in the context of rotation of responsibility. That is because no official, no matter who he is, is appointed for life.

The observer of political life in Tunisia knows that most of the time the head of state introduces some minor changes in the make-up of the government. Certain ministers move from one ministry to another. Even those who are not assigned a ministry are called upon to carry out other tasks which are not less important, in my opinion, than running a ministry. There may be no need for certain persons because of serious mistakes which the head of state cannot pardon. On the level of governors, delegates and presidents and general directors, and ambassadors too, there are regular movements which occur in this or that corps, after a period of time, as need be, and in accordance with the traditions which we have firmly established in this line of work.

Also, assigning a person one job or another does not mean inviting him to apply his personal policy in the apparatus with which he is entrusted.

On the contrary, he is responsible for implementing the policy decided by the head of state. The government strives to give it concrete form in reality. The civil servant is asked to work hard, to be honest, to be committed to state policy, and to create and invent the best and most capable means of attaining the targeted goal in the shortest time possible and at least expense. Because of all of these considerations, I say that with regard to implementing the policy we laid down for ourselves, we are progressing with firm, successful steps on the path of development. The results which we record every year are proof of this. What we are aiming at through some changes and reshuffling is to introduce more vitality, efficiency and harmony in certain structures.

[Question] It has been noted that after the release of those arrested in the religious current case, there has been more talk about the return of exiles abroad. They are various groups who left in the 1970's. Will this initiative cover only members of the Islamic Tendency or will it be a broad initiative?

[Answer] I think you have followed what this government has been doing for the last 4 years and continues to do in support of the democratic path and in defense of freedoms. We began by releasing the majority of trade unionists and students who were political prisoners. These prisoners were arrested during the 1960's and 1970's. Next we tried to eliminate all the exclusions, one after the other. We tried and succeeded in firmly implanting pluralism. We will not stop here. On the contrary, we will continue our efforts to further strengthen the pillars of true democracy, in other words, responsible, conscious democracy in which each individual bears his obligations to the same extent as he exercises his rights in an atmosphere of respect for the law, adherence to the constitution and protection of the honor of the state and regime.

Some people may complain about the slow pace of our progress in this direction. However, the reason is that we were hoping and calling for discipline, a feeling of responsibility, an awareness of the necessity of relying on a phased approach, and conscious behavior, and we did not always find this in many people. We did find behavior which did not facilitate our task or help us in our work. Those acting in that manner did so either with good intentions, but in ignorance of what the circumstances required, or through intrigue aiming at thwarting our work. They were the losers and did not know it. However, despite that, we have succeeded in creating an open political climate in which all freedoms have thrived. We have not ceased trying to provide the greatest number of conditions to preserve this gain, without which more than one nation in the Third World, even some nations rich in natural resources, have failed. A very small number of people in politics are outside Tunisian borders, and there is no objection to their returning, if they so choose, and settling their cases with judicial authorities. Some of them have been sentenced by courts of public law, and they know that.

[Question] Talk about the possibility of including independents, those with no party affiliations, in the government has raised the question of

the distinction between state organs and the organ of the Destourian Socialist Party. Don't you think that the time has come to clarify this matter and thus serve to firmly establish institutions?

[Answer] Here I will repeat the statement that the head of state is the one who decides to ask this or that person to assume a certain responsibility. As for the division between state organs and the Destourian Socialist Party, this is not the time to speak of this. The party and its president, Habib Bourguiba, are the ones who founded the state of Tunisia. They take credit for liberating the country from the noose of imperialism and for raising the Tunisian citizen to the standing and level of progress he enjoys today. The party is still a party of the masses which derives its power from the confidence of the overwhelming majority of the Tunisian people. It bears a national, cultural message. I believe no other party is capable of pursuing this message and bearing the entire burden and consequences of it. In democratic nations with a multi-party system don't you see that whenever there are elections and one party wins, it immediately proceeds to take over all the important posts, the posts of responsibility for commanding and steering, to ensure the greatest number of conditions for success in implementing its policy? Every citizen who has the professional qualifications has a right to the jobs of implementing policy.

[Question] When the two opposition parties were recognized last November, you confirmed that there was a bill in progress to organize the presence of parties in Tunisia. The question is, when will this bill be submitted to the parliament? Will the opposition be consulted before the bill is presented to parliament?

[Answer] The bill is being prepared and will be submitted to the head of state when it is ready. Once he approves it, it will be submitted to the parliament. In this connection, I assure you that we will consider proposals which we receive and every positive contribution in drafting the clauses of the bill. Thus the bill will meet all present and future requirements of Tunisian political life. It will ensure sovereignty of the law, respect for the constitution and the prestige of the state and constitutional institutions. Thus it will provide all the guarantees for pursuing normal political life in an atmosphere of stability, far-removed from the excesses and all the negative manifestations we see in some countries of the Third World.

[Question] In connection with the law on parties, it is well-known that the question of amending the law on the press has been raised. You presided over the conclusion of the last two sessions of the supreme council on information which issued recommendations in this regard. When will the amended text of the law on the press come out?

[Answer] It is the same as for the first bill. There are special committees composed of all the parties concerned, and they are busy studying the law on the press and preparing a new bill which will be submitted for study. However, it is only a question of time and nothing more.

[Question] Our final question concerns the elections in Tunisia next May. They are the first municipal elections under the multiparty system. The opposition revealed political and legal flaws in the parliamentary elections held in 1981. It has demanded greater guarantees that the elections be conducted in a proper manner. May we ask about the political guarantees which the government will offer to ensure that the coming elections are conducted in a proper manner?

[Answer] We do not forget that we are a country which still belongs to the Third World, despite all the efforts made to achieve its social, economic and political rebirth. Certain actions and excesses may occur from time to time. They may be committed by people, either on purpose or with good intentions, as I pointed out in my response to the first question. Often some of these excesses are blown up and exaggerated. Often the charge is fabricated to call into question the legitimacy of the existing system, give the appearance of being victimized, and consequently cast doubt on all the work we are accomplishing. I must ask here why we compete with events and concern ourselves with a matter which today has become history? I say that the door is open to anyone who feels that he is qualified and able to be a candidate, regardless of political affiliations. Let him try his luck, and we will await the results.

I believe that the results are not an end in themselves to the extent that some people make them out to be. In our concept the elections are a basis for training citizens in the pursuit of political life in its noble dimension, in other words, its cultural dimension, and in the exercise of rights and obligations. It is training in committed, responsible, conscious democracy, because we prefer to lead a conscious people informed about the use of democratic methods. If we appeal to the people when need be, then questions are settled in better fashion. If we ourselves impose a decree through undemocratic means, this denigrates the Tunisian and violates his freedom. This is the end and aim. The rest is froth which floats by uselessly.

7811
CSO: 4504/46

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PFLP-GC DISSIDENT INTERVIEWED

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Oct 84 pp 14-15

[Interview with Abu Jabir Muhammad, Secretary General of the Popular Front-the General Command (Interim Command Committee, by Muhammad Karishan: "The National Alliance Has Been Pelted with Stones"]

[Text] This is what Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP, the General Command, called the group that took action on 17 August 1983 under the leadership of Abu Jabir Muhammad after Jibril's troops shelled the Ba'labakk Camp in al-Biqa': he called them "'Arafat's agents" and "'Arafat's mercenaries."

It was then that those who are now called the PFLP, the General Command (Interim Command Committee) knew that they had no choice but to take sides with either the Palestinian people or their killers. So they went to Tripoli where they announced their first bulletin and seized everything that belonged to Jibril's group who were driven out of the area behind the lines of the Syrian army. While their blood was shed in vain and they were denied passage through any Syrian barricade, some of their supporters were thrown into Syrian prisons.

Having lived through that period, Abu Jabir Muhammad talks about the beginning of the dissident movement and says, "Abu Musa's group consisted of a handful of people who were overcome by fear. They were protected by Jibril's forces and by officers of the Syrian army."

During the siege of Tripoli the fighters of the General Command (the Interim Command Committee) sided with official Palestinian organizations against those who advocated the overthrow of the government and destructive "reform" to defend the independence of national decision making. Twenty people lost their lives, and 35 people were wounded.

In this interview with AL-RA'Y Abu Jabir Muhammad talked about the problem of convening the council, and he talked about what he thought of the national alliance and Ahmad Jibril in particular whom he got to know closely. He also talked about the organizational situation of his movement and about his relations with the rest of Palestinian parties and Arab regimes.

[Question] There is no doubt that the question of convening the Palestine National Council is the principal question that is being posed now, particularly

since this is not only a question about the possibility of convening the council, but it is also one about where it will be convened. The suggestion that the council may be convened on a ship is not a romantic notion, but it actually reflects a real crisis that has to do with where the council is to be convened. What do you think about that?

[Answer] The question of convening the council is a sensitive question at this stage. There are two schools of thought about that in the Palestinian Revolution.

The first one is that of the National Alliance which is found in Damascus. It wants to reach a certain agreement with the Democratic Alliance. Eventually, the National Alliance wants an agreement with Fatah's Central Committee which would not include 'Arafat whose leadership of the Palestinian people is rejected by Syria.

The second school of thought is that of those who are defending the independence of Palestinian national decision making.

We in the Palestinian Revolution set out to realize the hopes of the Palestinian people in the camps and everywhere. When the people reject us, their rejection means that we are no longer representing them. This is what happened at the al-Yarmuk Camp for Palestinians in Syria which houses 300,000 people. There, on Bairam, camp residents prevented all the leaders of the National Alliance from visiting the tombs of those who had lost their lives in battle.

What happened in al-Yarmuk and elsewhere indicates that despite all the drawbacks, the Palestinian people stand behind Abu 'Amara.

We support convening the National Council. Anyone who comes to the council meeting will be welcome, and history as well as the Palestinian people will show no mercy to those who stayed away and who defamed the Palestinian struggle.

With regard to where the council will be convened, our colleagues in Fatah do not wish to embarrass Algeria and Democratic Yemen. Therefore, they declared a delay in the hope that all factions will come.

An Invitation from Tunisia?

If the council is convened in Mozambique, in one of the Greek islands or on board a ship, then may all Arab regimes be damned.

However, Iraq and Jordan did invite the council to convene in these two countries. I also learned recently that Tunisia, where the main offices of the Arab League are located, had issued an invitation to the council to convene there.

Anyone who wishes to criticize Abu 'Amara should do so through legal channels. If it is decided that Abu 'Amara should be removed, let him be removed. Why not? However, the National Alliance people will not come, and I doubt that the people of the Democratic Alliance will come either. If they do, they will be ridiculed and they won't do anything as long as 70 percent of council members support

'Arafat. Had they been able to bring about a democratic change, they would not have used weapons in al-Biqa' and in Tripoli. That is the method of people who are bankrupt.

[Question] If the National Alliance continues to be intransigent and the Democratic Alliance continues to waver, do you still think it will be necessary to convene the National Council regardless of who comes?

[Answer] We have been persistent in calling for the National Council to be convened. We told Abu 'Ammar recently that if the National Council is not convened, that would mean that those whose blood was shed and whose lives were lost in Tripoli and in al-Biqa' while defending the independence of national decision making did so in vain. We told him that our people who gave up their lives in battle would condemn us for complying with the conditions of Arab regimes.

We've had enough lies. The time has come to make a distinction between true fighters and those who destroy what their people and their revolution have achieved.

I have been with the PFLP, the General Command since 1963. I know quite well and quite truthfully that the dispute between Ahmad Jibril and 'Arafat is a personal dispute. It is a struggle for the leadership of the Palestinian people.

A Defender [of the People] Is Nominated by His People

Jibril has hated Abu 'Ammar and has been conspiring against him since 1965. I spent close to 12 years in the occupation's prisons. When I came out of prison, I found no change in Jibril's mental attitude.

I told Jibril once in 1980, "How do you expect to win your people over when you did not build a single hospital or dig a water well in any camp?"

It is easy to become a king or a dictator. However, one cannot become a defender [of the people] unless one is chosen and nominated by the people. That is why Jibril was pelted with stones at al-Yarmuk camp when he wanted to visit on Bairam the tombs of those who had died in battle. However, the question and the conspiracy are larger than Jibril who is nothing more than a puppet in the Syrians' hands.

A verse in the Koran states, "It is most odious in Allah's sight that you should say one thing and do another" [al-Saff: 3]. That is what Jabril does.

I was his central security official for 3 years, and I had contact with him every day. Believe me, I got to know him quite well.

[Question] Is the Popular Front, the General Command (the Interim Committee) that you head presenting itself as the legal heir of the parent faction? Is it presenting itself as an altogether different faction which will be declared soon, or is it presenting itself as one that is in the process of becoming a different faction?

[Answer] We do not wish to add a new faction and a new cause for concern on the Palestinian scene.

Our work in the PFLP's General Command was carried out in broad daylight and not done in secret. I told three members of the front's Political Bureau that the course Jibril was pursuing was not proper and not revolutionary. I told them it was necessary that it be put to an end. If that was impossible, then we would have only one choice. We would have to take action and carry out what is called an uprising, a split or a corrective action. The name does not matter; what does matter is that the situation not continue. When the Popular Front, the General Command came into being, I was one of the first 30 young men in it. If Jibril is its secretary general, we were the ones who put him in that position.

A Mafia Mentality

One of the three men told me that a democratic dialogue and Jibril were mutually exclusive. Jibril has the mentality of a Mafia boss, not that of a defender [of the people]. Anyone who disagrees with him is liquidated. We are the ones who know best the list of those who lost their lives because of him.

Thus, the only choice we had was that of carrying out our action. Jibril's special unit (the suicide unit) as well as the naval unit joined our action. Some of our supporters are still within the ranks of the front, and we stay in touch with them.

At any rate, we, the members of the Popular Front, the General Command do not intend to announce the creation of a new faction. We are pursuing the proper course that we laid out in 1965 and 1966. We will pursue that course unless the majority at a future conference thinks otherwise. And I may be one of those opposing that direction.

[Question] But what will you do if you do not announce the formation of a new faction, when in practice the Popular Front, the General Command is divided between you and Ahmad Jibril's group?

[Answer] We are the legal General Command of the Popular Front, and the only stumbling block is Ahmad Jibril, the strongman who considers the front his personal property.

We have been calling from the outset for a conference of the front in which we would evaluate the course of our struggle which is obviously somewhat flawed. Let's check on ourselves, [we said], but Jibril refused because he sees every action taken within the front as an action against him personally.

Friends with Fatah and with Everyone

[Question] What is the condition of those people who are there in Syria with Ahmad Jibril?

[Answer] There are two very different schools of thought at the present time. One is represented by Jibril and his brother-in-law, Fadil Sharuru; and the other is represented by Tallal Naji, 'Umar al-Shari and Abu Hazim.

Their presence in Syria is the only factor that is defusing the situation.

They are not to be envied at all for their internal and organizational conditions.

[Question] How are your current relations with the rest of the Palestinian factions, and with Fatah first?

[Answer] We are friends and brothers, and we are pursuing the same course. Our blood was mixed with theirs in the effort to defend the independence of the national Palestinian decision making.

[Question] What about your relations with the parties to the Democratic Alliance?

[Answer] Our relations with the Palestine Liberation Front are friendly. We are always visiting each other. We are members of the same front, and we have the same history. We have personal relations with Abu al-'Abbas and with 'Ali Ishaq.

Our relations with the Democratic Front are "very good." Members of the Political Bureau have been quite encouraging.

Our relations with the Popular Front are ordinary. We also have good relations with our colleagues who dissociated themselves from al-Sa'iqah and also with the Arab Liberation Front.

[Question] What about your relations with Arab regimes?

[Answer] Our principle is not to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

We have very good relations with Democratic Yemen where we have an office. And we have good relations with Algeria and Iraq. The two countries promised that we would be able to open offices there. We also have offices in Kuwait and in Tunisia.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

IMPLICATIONS OF PALESTINIANS' RETURN TO BEIRUT DISCUSSED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 245, 20-26 Oct 85 pp 15-16

[Article by Mustafa Zayn: "Palestinians' Return to Beirut Raises Questions and Brings out Attitudes; Will What Happened in Tripoli Be Repeated in Beirut?"]

[Text] It was the first time since the Palestinians' departure from Beirut in August 1982 that the Palestine Liberation Organization declared its responsibility for a guerilla operation that was carried out 3 weeks ago in south Lebanon against the forces of the Israeli occupation. Three guerillas lost their lives in that operation, and one of them was a French citizen, Francoise (Kaziman). Two other guerillas were arrested by the forces of occupation.

Observers explaining the political background of this operation found that it contained a direct message to the Israelis who have been asking for security guarantees on the borders with Lebanon. As Perez stated, the Israelis have been satisfied with mere verbal promises from Syria reassuring them about "the security of their borders." The guerilla operation thus reminded Israelis and Americans, who are negotiating with Lebanese and Syrian authorities on behalf of the Israelis, that the PLO was still there and that no security guarantees could be assured unless they are approved by the organization.

Israeli authorities may have taken this message into consideration when they insisted that there be a legitimate Lebanese army to secure the guarantee in addition to the Syrian verbal guarantee, if that were to be given.

The Israelis have started talking about the return of 2,000 Palestinian fighters to Beirut. The Israelis claim that these fighters are operating secretly under the local auspices of Lebanese parties and organizations.

Whether the figure cited by Israel about Palestinian fighters is accurate or exaggerated, there is no doubt that the presence of 350,000 or 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon is not a matter of little importance to the Lebanese government or to its security talks with Israel. It is inevitable that those Palestinians will one day come together into some anti-Israeli organization. The PLO will have to rely on this popular base in any future action it undertakes or in any subsequent negotiations it conducts with the government of Lebanon.

Ever since Israel's invasion of Lebanon, Israel and its allies have been trying

to get rid of large numbers of the Palestinian people by resorting to terrorism, intimidation and massacres. The Lebanese army as well did take part in that effort before the latest division that took place in that army on 6 February last year. However, Israel and its allies discovered that it was impossible to do away with an entire people. So they organized some of their clients, like the National Guard and the Guardians of the Cedars, and planted them in the camps. But these organizations failed, and they were not able to stand in the face of the Lebanese national resistance which is allied with the Palestinians.

On the other hand, two Palestinian demonstrations that took place last week in the camps of Sabra and Shatila attracted the attention of those dealing with Lebanon's political affairs. The first demonstration was organized by Abu Musa's group, Fatah, the Interim Command. Representatives of a number of Lebanese parties that are allied with Syria took part in that demonstration which took place on the anniversary of the assassination of Majid Abu Sharar. These parties are the social, National Syrian Party, the Lebanese Communist Party and the Amal Movement. The absence of a representative from the Progressive Socialist Party was noted. It was normal for speakers at that demonstration to emphasize "Syria's role in the battle" and to attack Abu 'Ammar and his leadership.

The second demonstration, however, was organized by the masses of the camp. It took place on the occasion of the funeral of the French guerilla fighter who lost her life in an operation in south Lebanon against the Israeli forces of occupation. Abu 'Ammar's pictures were raised for the first time in the camp, and the demonstrators repeated those chants and slogans they used to repeat before the Israeli invasion.

Have the Fighters and Their Disputes Returned?

Although Fatah's Interim Command did mobilize Palestinians and Lebanese citizens who are sympathetic with it on the anniversary of the assassination of Majid Abu Sharar, Fatah's Basic Command mobilized only small numbers of Palestinians in its demonstration. However, this does not mean that Abu 'Ammar has lost his popularity among Palestinians. The fact that his pictures have appeared for the first time in a demonstration after his departure from Beirut provides sufficient evidence of his popularity. Fatah's Basic Command does not find it appropriate now, because of numerous circumstances, to organize large demonstrations. In Lebanon, support for Abu 'Ammar still exists in some Lebanese organizations that are allied with him, such as al-Murabitun and the Communist Action Organization. These two organizations did not break relations with the PLO leader, nor did they join the new front that was formed last week by Walid Junblat. But does this mean that an inter-Palestinian dispute like that which occurred in Tripoli will erupt soon in Beirut? Does this mean that Lebanese organizations, like the Unification Group in Tripoli, which did not join the new front that was formed by Junblatt, will take part in this dispute too? Will the new front be opposed to Abu 'Ammar as the Arab Party and the Communist Party in north Lebanon were?

Numerous questions are being asked by observers and ordinary Lebanese citizens who are watching what is taking place warily and cautiously. The charter of the front that was declared by Minister Walid Junblatt strongly attacked Abu 'Ammar and his policies. Those who spoke at the rally that was held on the anniversary

of the assassination of Majid Abu Sharar did the same. Al-Murabitun's militia had fought violent battles against Junblatt's militia some months ago, and it was defeated, but it has reappeared in the back streets. A rumor has been floating around in the capital of Lebanon that Palestinian fighters from Fatah had joined al-Murabitun's militia.

In another context, all feuding and allied parties in Lebanon are warning of an outbreak of religious disputes in the capital. Al-Mufti Khalid and al-Shaykh Shams-al-Din have issued warnings, and political parties have followed suit. However, the signs and indicators of an outbreak are obvious to everyone, particularly since none of the feuding parties can settle the situation militarily and none of the feuding parties can stand against the swelling tide of sectarianism that has taken hold of Beirut's back residential neighborhoods.

How accurate are these warnings and this information?

Walid Junblatt, the leader of the front of parties has affirmed in more than one speech that these warnings are accurate. The Islamic Coalition did the same thing in the meeting it held last week. Most people who attended that meeting were notable Lebanese politicians, and they confined their discussions to the problem of religious disputes.

However, the presence of fighters from Fatah in the ranks of Lebanese parties was not confirmed by anyone, although rumors about that are quite widespread. A Palestinian source close to Abu 'Ammar told AL-MAJALLAH that there was no truth to those rumors about Palestinian fighters returning to Beirut. However, that source did affirm that under the leadership of Abu 'Ammar the PLO had not broken relations with Palestinians in Lebanon. "The PLO is responsible for those Palestinians in times of war and in times of peace. After most Arab regimes let them down, they have nowhere to turn but to the PLO."

This source added, "The presence of Palestinians in the ranks of Lebanese parties is nothing new. In the past some of these Palestinians did rise to leadership positions. Palestinians are part of 'the fabric' of the Arab world, and it is inevitable that they be found in its organizations and its parties."

Regarding relations with Lebanese parties and the fears these parties have of a religious outbreak in Beirut in which Palestinians may be involved, it is being said that the PLO has not burned its bridges with anyone, not even with Syria. It is being said that all Lebanese parties with their various tendencies, and the Lebanese government as well, are still conducting talks with the PLO. Most of these talks revolve around avoiding the outbreak which "well-known agencies" are striving to bring about.

That source referred to a new meeting that took place 2 weeks ago between Lebanon's prime minister, Rashid Karami and Abu al-Lutf. At that meeting the two men discussed various affairs that are common to the Lebanese and the Palestinians, particularly those that have to do with the status of Palestinian civilians and the strict terms Lebanese authorities are applying in extending their residence permits and issuing them passports to leave Lebanon or return to it.

What the Palestinian source said was somewhat reassuring. However, those who did live through the Lebanese events think that an outbreak in the capital of Lebanon is imminent if matters are not corrected by party and political circles operating on the scene in Lebanon. Matters would become even more serious if the gap between the Palestinian parties themselves were to grow wider and if some of these parties were to become involved in Lebanon's religious game.

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AFGHANISTAN

VILLAGES BOMBED IN RETALIATION

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 6 (Dispatches) — Islamic insurgents launched a dozen rocket attacks against the Afghanistan capital, Kabul, last week in a new surge of anti-Soviet activity around the city, western diplomats reported Tuesday.

The diplomats, who cannot be identified by name or nationality, said the Nov. 3 attack was apparently directed at the nearby Soviet-manned Bala Hissar Fort in central Kabul. It was preceded by almost nightly smaller rocket attacks aimed at the fort last week.

Some of the missiles, fired from the mountains overlooking the city, landed near the American Embassy, the sources said. It was not immediately clear whether the Bala Hissar Fort was hit.

Radio Kabul reported the Nov. 3 attack, saying five civilians were killed, or injured and "hundreds rescued by the fire service."

The diplomats said the attack continued for more than three hours and at least a dozen rockets hit the bazaar area. Some anti-Soviet Afghans speculated that they might have been

fired by the forces of the Soviet-backed Afghan regime of Babrak Karmal to arouse resentment against the Mujahideen among the civilian population.

Heavy artillery and machine gun fire was heard repeatedly last week on all sides of Kabul airport, the main supply base for the 105,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. The sources said Soviet artillery and helicopter gunships kept up an almost continuous bombardment of suspected Mujahideen positions in the mountains.

On the day of the bazaar fire, a Soviet-made helicopter of the Afghan army exploded in the air shortly after taking off from the airport. The diplomats said the blast was apparently caused by a bomb placed in the helicopter.

Heavy Fighting Continues

The diplomats reported continuing heavy fighting around the cities of Kandahar and Herat and in the partly guerrilla-held Logar Valley south of Kabul.

Some Soviet ground forces were withdrawn from the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul to clear the way for

renewed intensive air and artillery bombardment of suspected Mujahideen strongholds. The Panjsher was the scene of the heaviest fighting reported earlier this year as Soviet and Afghan troops repeatedly tried to push the guerrillas out of the valley.

Diplomats also said Soviet MiG warplanes bombed the town of Istalef, 24 miles (39 km) north of Kabul, Thursday, killing 200 civilians and damaging buildings, including a mosque. They had no further details.

The diplomats cited consistent reports from Afghan informants of atrocities committed by Soviet troops and members of the Karmal regime's Communist youth movement against civilians.

On Oct. 12, when Russian troops were said to have invaded a small village in the Logar Valley following a guerrilla ambush in which one Soviet armored vehicle was destroyed.

Twelve men and four women suspected of helping the guerrillas were seized, doused with gasoline and burned to death in the village square, the informants said.

CSO: 4600/102

AFGHANISTAN

ARTICLE ELABORATES ON ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY RESISTANCE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Nov 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Reports reaching here from Afghanistan during the past weeks indicated the continuation of the resistance of the Muslim people of the country against the aggression of the Soviets and the subservient regime in that country.

Latest reports in this connection referred to the occurrence of a new series of clashes in the strategic Panjsher Valley which started in October.

According to these reports the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries were continuing their resistance while controlling the sensitive positions of the upper part of the valley. The occupiers have failed to take over this part of the valley despite their heavy fire against these positions.

The Panjsher Valley has been the target of the aggressor forces of Karmal's regime during the recent months, yet they have only occupied the lower part of the valley and their repeated attacks upon the upper part have been squelched.

The previous attack was started early in September this year that is about two months ago during which the Soviets employed a large air and ground force but they failed to take their objective. More than 300 Muslim revolutionaries were martyred during this offensive but the aggressor forces failed due to the resistance of Afghan Muslims despite their severe shortage of equipment and logistics technology.

The new round of Soviet aggression aimed at occupying the upper part of the valley which is under

the control of Muslim revolutionaries from the north of "Khanj" to the Anjuman Pass, has begun while winter is approaching and a heavy snow has covered the valley.

Observers believe that since the occupying forces lack the necessary mobility in winter they were taking advantage of this period to take over the valley.

However, no new reports have been transmitted from the situation of the valley so far. This news black-out by itself indicates that the new assault did not bring about anything for the occupiers and the lackey forces of Karmal.

On the other hand, simultaneously with the resistance of the Muslim revolutionaries, the Soviet mass media tried to portray the situation in Kabul as peaceful and calm by forging reports and in this way pretend that the resistance movement in Afghanistan has reached a dead-end.

But the liveliest proof in exposing this propaganda is the glorious resistance which still continues in the Panjsher Valley. In addition, the cities of Kandahar, Herat and Kabul have been constantly witnessing the successful operations of the Muslim revolutionaries.

The zenith of these operations was three months ago in Kabul, capital of the Afghanistan and the main camp of both the occupying and government forces. This, while Kabul is under the severest of security measures and is in fact considered the only controllable area for the subservient regime and the occupying troops. Any time a successful operation is launched to demolish one of the installations of the enemy's military units in retaliation the enemy has bombarded refugee camps in the villages and border areas in a futile attempt to check the resistance of the revolutionary forces.

The bombardment of the border regions of Pakistan on three separate occasions during the past three months, which led to the martyrdom of more than a hundred innocent civilians, are instances of these revenge tactics.

On the other hand, the Karmal regime tried to accuse neighboring countries of having a hand in the internal affairs of Afghanistan in an attempt to deviate public opinion inside and outside the country from the realities of resistance in Afghanistan and also to justify the presence of the occupying forces.

Following this propaganda, unconfirmed reports have been transmitted on the arrival of new Soviet forces in Afghanistan on the pretext of protecting the borders. But what is definite here is the undeniable genuinness of the struggle in that country which would not change under any conditions and by any conspiracy.

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RESISTANCE PERSISTS IN SPITE OF CHEMICAL GAS USE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Nov 84 p 5

[Text]

The Agency Afghan Press have reported from Jalalabad that the Mujahideen halted the military convoy in Bab-rotangi area of sub-division Sokai on September 17. The Mujahideen, by using rocket launchers destroyed an armoured car in which the crew and the political advise were killed on the spot. The convoy retreated back when seven Karmal troops put their arms before the Mujahideen.

It was learnt that the movement of military convoy was not possible for 10 days in the area as a result of Mujahideen presence.

Mujahideen's Centre in Helmand Province Bombed

The Soviet-Karmal troops conducted a raid on a Mujahideen's centre in sub-division Nad-e-Ali in Helmand Province martyring eight Mujahideen and injuring 22 others.

In a retaliatory attack, the Mujahideen killed 11 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed one tank. During the attack against the Mujahideen bombing took place and later the Mujahideen moved to their safer places.

The Agency Afghan Press sources from Lashkargah said that the Soviet-Karmal forces on October 5, launched an attack on the Mujahideen's places in sub-division Nad-e-Ali. The Mujahideen frustrated the attack after stiff resistance. According to the reports the Mujahideen attacked an army post in the same area where the post Commander Captain Akhtar Mohammad joined the Mujahideen along with five soldiers.

Meanwhile, a report was received from Ghazni city that a Mujahideen's group armed with rocket launchers raided the provincial offices of the ruling party set up in Ghazni Hotel in the city. In the course of the operation, eight Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and several others were injured in the army post in the premises of the offices. The freedom fighters left for their safe places after the guerrilla operation without suffering any loss.

Operation in Kunduz Province

According to the information received from the northern Afghan Province of Kunduz, the Mujahideen led

by Commander Abdul Ghani conducted a guerrilla operation in the town of Imam Sahib and killed five Karmal troops and injured 17 others. During the attack, Commander Abdul Ghani and his companion Asadulla were martyred.

According to a report, the Mujahideen captured an army post in sub-division Qila Zal of the same province where three Karmal soldiers were killed and the remaining force fled away. The Mujahideen also attacked the Soviet-Karmal forces near Khanabad town located 10 kilometer east of Kunduz city, on September 29. The Mujahideen foiled the attempt for search operation and forced the Soviet-Karmal troops to flee away towards Kunduz city.

Kabul Airport Unsafe for Fighter Planes — Kabul Radio

Kabul Radio has admitted that Kabul Airport is not safe for flight operations conducted by Soviet and Karmal Airforces. The Radio has quoted the statement issued by Afghan Air Chief Lt. Gen. Abdus Sattar in which he stressed the officers and pilots for effective measures

to ensure the safe operation of fighter planes.

According to Radio the Air Chief was addressing a meeting at Kabul Airport in connection with 14 plenum. Lt. Gen. Abdus Sattar said that officers and pilots should be vigilant for their responsibilities regarding the safety of the flights from Kabul Airport.

Soviet Bombardment in Ghazni and Samangan Provinces

The Afghan Mujahideen destroyed a tank and three armored cars while 21 Soviet-Karmal troops were killed and 60 Karmal troops were captured during operations in Samangan and Ghazni Provinces. The clashes claimed the lives of eight Mujahideen while 19 sustained injuries. The Soviet bombers in retaliation were reported to have strafed the areas as a result of which several unarmed citizens were martyred and 45 houses razed to the ground.

The Agency Afghan Press sources reported from Ghazni that the Mujahideen launched a sudden attack on a military convoy carrying military supplies in the area Kuru Jungal of sub-division Qara Bagh on September 30. The Mujahideen wiped out three armored cars with

rocket fires and eliminated 17 Soviet-Karmal troops including four Soviet officers while 15 Karmal troops surrendered before the Mujahideen with their arms. As many as eight Mujahideen were martyred and 19 others were injured in the counter attack. The report says that Soviet planes shelled and bombed the area where the number of casualties could not be ascertained.

Meanwhile, the urban guerrilla Mujahideen killed a Khad official Naseeb Ullah during an operation in Ghazni city and destroyed a tank by rocket launcher which was stationed outside the security post.

The report from Samangan Province stated that the Mujahideen set on fire two trucks loaded with ammunition during the raids on military post in the vicinity of Samangan city on September 27. Ten rocket launchers, one anti-aircraft gun and 45 Kalashinkov rifles were also seized in the course of attacks while 60 Karmal troops were captured. It was learnt that shelling by the Soviet-Karmal troops in the area caused heavy losses.

Chemical Gas

The occupation Soviet troops have started using different kinds of chemical gases to unnerve the Mujahideen in Afghanistan.

The gases include carbon oxide, mono oxide and such a special type of gas which denudes the people under its impact.

The Agency Afghan Press Kabul sources in a special report have disclosed that the fresh troops coming from the Soviet Union have brought with them large quantities of such gases. According to the report the cylinders full of gas are installed on the army vehicles and when these explode by the firing of the Mujahideen the entire atmosphere is poisoned where breathing becomes very difficult. Such gases are also used in Karez and hide-outs of the Mujahideen. Last month a similar incident took place near Ghazni city and 13 Mujahideen were martyred by suffocation caused by gas.

The sources have said that a special type of gas is being used by the Soviet forces during their recent operations which tears off the clothes and strips off a man naked. Such a gas was used sometime back in Sarbagh and Nusta areas of Samangan Province where Mujahideen had to suspend their operations. The Mujahideen have also used methods to undo the influence of the gas. Now they put on clothes dipped into the coal-water which undoes the impact of the gas.

CSO: 4600/102

UN DELEGATE'S STATEMENT BACKS CONTADORA GROUP

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Oct 84 p 12

[Text] New York, Oct 26--Bangladesh has expressed concern at the existing serious situation in Central America and stressed the need for promoting and encouraging the urgent process of dialogue and consultation aimed at understanding and reconciliation in the region reports BSS.

In a statement on the situation in the Central America at the United Nations General Assembly here yesterday, Bangladesh Permanent Representative at the UN Lt Gen (Retd) Khawja Wasiuddin said the situation there clearly demanded self-restraint, moderation and vision on the part of all the parties concerned.

He reiterated Bangladesh's conviction that peace and stability in any region could be built only on the basis of shared aspiration and mutual accommodation.

He expressed full support to the efforts and initiative of the Contadora Group of countries comprising Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia and Panama at evolving a consensus for resolving the crisis in Central America.

Gen Wasiuddin said Bangladesh firmly believed that such regional efforts were more likely to succeed for the simple reason that they were in a position to evaluate the situation more comprehensively.

The Bangladesh Ambassador regretted at the attempts that were being made to view the development in the region in the context of an East-West confrontation.

He said that such attempts would only exacerbate the situation and retard the process of normalisation of relations among the countries of the region through dialogue and negotiations.

Gen Wasiuddin said the current debate on the situation in Central America should give a renewed appeal to the countries directly involved to speed up their consultation with the Contadora Group with a view to reaching a regional consensus for restoration of peace and security and enhancement of economic and social development in the region.

He warned against getting involved in any deliberation that might result in further polarisation and deepening of mistrust and mutual recrimination thereby causing a threat to both regional and international peace and security.

BANGLADESH

NORWAY, BANGLADESH SIGN FINANCING AGREEMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh will receive a grant of Taka 66 crore (225 million Norwegian Kroner) each year from Norway for the period of 1985-88 under a financing agreement on country programme signed between the two countries in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

The visiting Norwegian Minister for Development Cooperation, Mrs Reidun Brusletten, and the Principal Finance Secretary and Finance Adviser, Mr M. Syeduzzaman, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

The grant will be utilised for development activities in the sectors of Inland Water Transport, Health and Population Control, Women's Activities, Railway Telecommunication, Energy, Small and Cottage Industries and balance of payment support.

Norway as one of the consistent aid giving countries has been providing aid to Bangladesh since the beginning of mutual cooperation between the two countries in 1973.

Norwegian assistance is entirely grant and the level of aid is increasing every year. The Norwegian grant to Bangladesh for 1984 was approximately Take 54 crore.

Bangladesh is the second largest recipient of Norwegian bilateral assistance and since 1973 Bangladesh received a total of 220 million dollars as commodity and project assistance from Norway.

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs Brusletten underlined the interest that the Norwegian government was taking in the development efforts of Bangladesh.

She said: "Bangladesh has for many reasons caught both the imagination and sympathy of the Norwegian public."

The Norwegian Minister said, "When you look at your present problems, it may seem a very long way to go to rebuild the golden Bengal of yours, a land of peace and plenty, chanted by the great Bengali poet, Tagore. However, you have taken an impressive number of steps on the road, and I am happy that my country is able to make a modest contribution to your progress."

Reciprocating the Finance Adviser Mr M. Syeduzzaman said Bangladesh was very happy with the Norwegian Assistance Programme which, he said, was very fruitful since it was channelled to areas of social importance.

Appreciating the enlightened aid policy of Norway, Mr Syeduzzaman said Norway's policy of giving more aid through the multilateral channels was acclaimed all over.

CSO: 4600/1116

BANGLADESH

CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Matiur Rahman]

[Text] The summit-level Islamic Peace Committee will hold its next meeting in Dhaka to find ways for bringing an end to the prolonged Iran-Iraq war, Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Choudhury disclosed yesterday.

In an exclusive interview with this correspondent at his Foreign Ministry chamber, Mr Choudhury said President Ershad had offered to hold the meeting of the seven-member OIC Peace Committee comprising the heads of states of Bangladesh, Gambia, Guinea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey and the chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The date for the Dhaka meeting will be fixed later immediately after the Gambian President prepares his final report on the progress of the OIC move to bring an end to the four-year-old fratricidal war. The Gambian President is due to submit his report to the Peace Committee after his talks with both the Iranian and Iraqi leaders in Tehran and Baghdad respectively.

The Foreign Affairs Adviser in this regard mentioned the continued efforts being made by the OIC since the conflict broke out and added, "nobody is going to win the war from both political and military point of view and only the enemy of Islam will be benefitted."

Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, who led the Bangladesh delegation recently to the UN General Assembly in New York and presided over the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting there as the current chairman, said the forthcoming 15th Islamic foreign minister's conference in Sa'ana would also take up a number of overriding issues like the Middle East problem, Palestine, Lebanon, Jerusalem, Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan for discussion.

On the Middle East situation, he said Bangladesh had supported the 'Fahd Plan' and said "we hope that will find satisfactory solution."

The Foreign Affairs Adviser was critical of the financial position of the OIC Secretariat and said the organization must be put in order first by restoring financial discipline. He agreed that there was a lot of criticism about it.

On selecting the next Secretary General of the 45-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Mr Choudhury said the organization would choose "the best man" to succeed the incumbent Secretary General Mr Habib Chatty of Tunisia by the Foreign Minister's conference in Sa'ana.

"We will go by the consensus and along with the consensus," he said and added the organization has the tradition to select through consensus and not by election.

He, however, did not rule out the possibility of a third country candidate for the OIC Secretary General.

Mr Habib Chatty will relinquish his post in December next.

Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury who also paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia on way back from United Nations, said our relations with Saudi Arabia are 'very warm, fraternal and cordial.'

He said he was happy with the outcome of his talks with the Saudi Foreign Minister and added "they have tremendous amount of goodwill for Bangladesh."

Mr Choudhury said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will visit Bangladesh some time next year and the date will be finalised at a convenient time.

Replying to a question of Baghdad's hosting the next non-aligned summit, he said "we like a consensus on the summit and we have no difficulties if Baghdad is the venue."

Replying to another question on his talks with the Indian State Minister for External Affairs Ramnewas Mridha in New York, the adviser said they had exchanged views on all bilateral matters including the unresolved issues.

He could not say specifically when asked on the Indian attitude towards resolving all the bilateral issues.

"When we meet we obviously discuss these issues with the hope of resolving them," he added.

Replying to another question on the fresh Indian move for erecting barbed wire fence along the Bangladesh border as is indicative from the press reports, Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury said we made our point clear that it goes against the friendship.

CSO: 4600/1119

JALIL FORMS PARTY 'TO ESTABLISH ISLAMIC RULE'

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 21 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Major (retd) M.A. Jalil yesterday announced the formation of a new party Jatiya Mukti Andolon (national salvation movement) with the main objective 'to establish Islamic rule in the country,' reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday afternoon Major (retd) Jalil said that a five-member committee of the party had been formed with him as its convenor and the former air chief Air Vice Marshal (retd) Sadruddin as the first member. The former air chief along with other members of the newly formed convening committee also attended the press conference.

Explaining the reasons behind the formation of the new party at this stage of acute national crisis Major (retd) Jalil said that without the implementation of an Islamic rule and upholding the values of Islam in all spheres of national life it would be difficult to forge a greater national unity for the overall development of the nation both moral and material.

He read out the 21-point objective of his new party saying that the party would organise the people of the country for a nation-wide Islamic movement without which the salvation of the country was not possible.

Major (retd) Jalil strongly criticised both government and the opposition for "leading the country towards a civil war." He pointed out that the five-point demand of the 15 and the seven party alliances "cannot be called as the national demand" as there was no such point there which could give "total emancipation of the people." He described the main components of these two alliances as the known forces who had failed to lead the country "in the past." Moreover, Major (Retd) Jalil said the programmes and ideologies of these two alliances were "totally contradictory."

The immediate goals of the National Salvation Movement (NSM), he said, are to demand early withdrawal or Martial Law, form a national revolutionary government and create a congenial atmosphere for fair election. He said that the new party believed that the 98 percent freedom fighters who fought the national war in 1971 were the true followers of Islam and that they "did never support the non-Islamisation of the country." This party would

resist all efforts towards non-Islamisation of the country and fight for establishment of a "society based on social justice and fair play."

Major (retd) Jalil, who was the President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) for 13 years, also commented in this context the scientific socialism or Communism is impossible in this country."

When asked to comment on his past politics with the JSD which was the believer of "scientific socialism," the former President of JSD, who had resigned from the post in February last, said that his politics of 13 years with the JSD "has enriched my political understanding."

"I have not done wrong. I have enriched my thinking through the process, and I now realise that only socialism cannot give total emancipation of the people. The salvation of soul is equally needed and for that a society based on justice and fairplay has to be established," he said.

Mr Jalil also called upon the people who believe in Islamic way of life and especially those who had associated with him in JSD to come under the banner of the National Salvation Movement. He pointed out that the Salvation Movement had a series of talks with other Islamic forces and would shortly launch a "vigorous movement" to establish Islamic rule in the country.

CSO: 4600/1111

BANGLADESH

PARTIES FORM FRONT TO ESTABLISH ISLAMIC RULE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 22 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Eight political parties and two youth organisations yesterday floated a united front-Moshtaraka Majlise Alam' (Combined Action Committee) with a view to launching relentless "jehad" for establishment of 'khelafat' in the country by bringing a major change in the society.

Headed for octogenarian religious leader Moulana Mohammadullah Hafeji Huzur of Khalafat Andolan, formal launching of the front was made at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in presence of the leaders of the constituent political parties. Moulana Azizul Haq read out a printed statement to this effect on behalf of Hafezji Huzur.

The jihad will be conducted on the basis of three programmes which are: immediate withdrawal of Martial Law and formation of a "revolutionary government" with representatives from "hakkani ulamaye keram" Islamic thinkers and intellectuals, declaration of Bangladesh as an Islamic republic and framing of draft Islamic constitution, holding referendum on it and elections on the basis of the Islamic constitution.

Describing the present situation as the result of the power struggle between two groups of people, that has led to the increasing sufferings of the people, Moulana Hafezji Huzur said that his front would wage an uncompromising struggle against all sorts of autocracy and oppression to establish exploitation free society as prescribed by Quran and Sunnah.

In reply to a question Moulana Azizul Haq said, they did not consider the present movement of the two alliances and Jamaat-e-Islami as the mass movement and the 5-point demand as the national demand as it did not reflect views of the 90 percent people of the country who are Muslims. In reply to another question he drew a contrast between the Jamaat and his front, and said the Jamaat was struggling for establishment of western democracy that was devoid of sanctions of Quran and Sunnah. He sidetracked a question whether the Iranian revolution was the source of their inspiration for establishing an Islamic society through mass upsurge (as he said), but demanded unfettered rights for the Muslims of all countries to visit Mecca and Medina to perform their religious rites and rituals.

Hafezji Huzur also declared October 26 as the "doa dibash" (prayer day) and said he would conduct a mass prayer at 3 p.m. on that day at the Baitul Mukarram square.

He said the programmes and ideology of the ten Islamic organisations would form the base of their united action. The Islamic political parties and youth organisations that had formed the combined action committee are: Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, Jatiya Mukti Andolon, Islamic Democratic League, Jamiate Ulmaye Islam and Nezam-e-Islam, Khalafate Rabbani Party. Islami Juba Shibir, Islamic Juba Andolon, Khademul Islam Jamaat, Majlis-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatme Nubuwat and Majlise Dawatul Haq.

The leaders of the front organisations including Maulana Abdur Rahim, Major (retd) M. A. Jalil, Maoulana Ashraf Ali, Principal Abul Kashem, Vice Marshal (retd) Sadruddin, Barristar Korban Ali, Capt (retd) Sultanuddin, Maulana Azizul Haque, Maulana Fazlul Haque Amini, Maulana Azizullah, Maulana Hussain Ahmed, Maulana Hamid Ullah, Prof Akhter Farooq, Maulana Abdur Razzak, Maulana Abdul Hye, Maulana Abdul Kader and Hafez Hemayet Uddin were present.

Maulana Hafezji Huzur, in his printed statement, pointed out the historical struggle which was carried out by the Muslim leaders and revolutionaries of the subcontinent for establishing Islamic rule. He was also critical of both domestic and foreign policies of the government, and observed that without Islamic rule there cannot be any solution of the gigantic problems now facing the society.

He also criticised the government for not pursuing an effective policy for the solution of the Ganges water dispute, the Talpatty, Dahagram and Angor-pota enclave issues.

Replying to questions, IDL chief Maulana Abdur Rahim said that the combined action committee was not in favour of participating in the election unless their demands were met. He also said that the 5-point demand was "not national demand."

Major Jalil

On being asked on his political turn-about by justifying his association with JSD when he had himself spoken about loss of life of "ten thousand workers" during previous regimes Major (retd) M.A. Jalil emphatically said he did not indulge in wrong politics.

Turning to the questioner, convenor of the just formed National Salvation Movement Major Jalil, retorted saying 'why don't you ask Sheikh Hasina how thousands of workers were done to death by her father. He hastened to add why don't you ask begum Khaleda Zia why Colonel Taher and innumerable others were killed during her husband's time.

At this stage, Major Jalil angrily counselled the reporters not to ask questions like the political party workers. They should try to ask questions like journalists, he said.

Instantly the reporters asked him to withdraw his reflection on the journalists which went unheeded. At this stage, other front leaders flanking Hafezjee Huzur rushed to grab the microphone to announce the end of the press conference as the Maghreb prayer drew nearer.

CSO: 4600/1112

BANGLADESH

REGULATIONS ON CHOOSING UPAZILA CHAIRMEN TOLD

Term Extended

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, on Thursday announced that upazila parishad chairmen would be nominated from amongst the union parishad chairmen. The nominated chairmen would hold offices till an election of upazila parishad was held, he said.

President Ershad said that the chairmen of each upazila would have to arrive at a consensus for nominating a candidate for upazila chairmanship. The Government would then nominate upazila chairman, he said.

The President was speaking at the Union Parishad Chairmen Conference--1984 at the Civic Centre complex premises, in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka.

Amidst thunderous cheers and applause, the President announced that the term of the office of the UP chairmen would be extended to five years from the existing term of three years.

The President said that he wanted to see a people's representative as the chairman of upazila parishad because "you know the problems of the local people better than a government official." "The Government also desires to see that you implement your own projects with the considerable development allocations being made to upazilas," he said.

President Ershad told the responsive audience that laws were being enacted providing opportunity to the union parishad chairmen to make appeal against the verdict of the Election Tribunal. He also announced enhancement of project limit of the union parishad from Taka 30,000 to Taka one lakh.

Referring to the allegations of irregularities in respect of agriculture credits, he said: "we shall have to build social resistance against corruptions." He said only directives could not eradicate this social vice.

He said indiscipline and chaos could not be allowed to grow. Reflection of Islamic ideals and values in our social life can stop this kind of social degeneration, he pointed out.

Chairmen of about 4,500 union parishads attended the conference. President Ershad listened to problems of the union parishad chairmen and replied to them.

President Ershad called upon the UP chairmen to translate into reality the political ideology and philosophy of the present Government to improve the lot of the downtrodden in the society. "The basic principle of my government is that if 68,000 villages prospers, the country survives and that is only possible through the co-ordination of the people and the soil," he said.

The President urged the UP chairmen to be cautious so that the prevailing political uncertainty did not affect the programme in the rural areas. "If it is affected, the poor people will starve," he cautioned.

President Ershad described the union parishad chairmen as the frontline soldiers for achieving national objectives of attaining welfare of the common man. "You are very close to the rural people who were subjected to neglect and deprivation in the past. Your dedication and service to their cause can improve their lot," he added.

The President congratulated the chairmen for their role in mitigating the sufferings of the people affected by the unprecedented floods this year, and said: "It is because of your active participation in the Government efforts in the flood-affected areas, none has died of starvation."

He said the upazilas, which had been created as part of a revolutionary programme to improve the lot of the rural people, had been very much instrumental in overcoming the effect of this year's floods.

He said that measures would action against UP chairmen got clearance from the Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts. He also said that moves would be initiated to look into the demand of the UP chairmen for desisting UP members to bring no-confidence resolution against the chairmen. The President said steps would be taken to enhance village level judicial conciliation powers of the union parishads.

He said that he was aware of the corrupt practices indulged in the distribution of agricultural credit. "During my visit to upazilas, I myself suspended some bank managers on the spot for this," he said.

Referring to the demands of the chairmen for providing telephone and power to each union, President Ershad said that despite its limited resources, the Government was doing its best to extend those facilities to the remote areas of the country.

Captain (Rtd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury in his presidential address said that he personally incidents in which clients of agricultural credit received Taka 800 out of his sanctioned loan of Taka 1000.

He assured that rabi crop seeds would reach all unions by November 1 next. He said that instruction had already been given to reach farm inputs in time.

Besides Union Parishad chairmen, the conference was attended by the DCMLAs-- Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud and Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed--ministers and high civil and military officers.

Clarification Given

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] The government has decided that if a Union Parishad Chairman is elected unanimously by all other union parishad chairmen of an upazila, he will be entrusted with the temporary responsibility to act as upazila parishad chairman of that upazila until the holding of the upazila parishad chairman elections, reports BSS.

This was clarified on Saturday by the government to remove any scope of confusion in the public minds regarding the announcement made by the President in the union parishad chairmen conference on October 25 about the arrangements to fill up the posts of upazila parishad chairmen for an interim period until the chairmen are elected directly on the basis of adult franchise.

At present the Upazila Nirbah Officers are acting as upazila parishad chairmen following the non-holding of the upazila parishad elections.

CSO: 4600/1113

PAPER LISTS OPPOSITION GROUPS' DEMANDS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 26 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] The Five-Point Movement was simultaneously launched by the Awami League-dominated 15-party alliance and the BNP-led 7-party combine through the identical statement issued on September 6, 1983.

The original Five-point Demand is:

1. Martial law must be withdrawn immediately and the army must return to the barrack.
2. Democratic atmosphere, including fundamental rights, must be restored immediately and all restrictions on political activities will have to be withdrawn.
3. Elections to sovereign parliament must be held in the next winter (that is, the winter of 1983-84) before any other elections are held, and the sovereign parliament must be convened and power must be transferred to the elected representatives of the people. The right to take decision on all national issues must be vested with the sovereign parliament, and none else will have the right to take any decision regarding the Constitution.
4. All political leaders and workers who are detained on political grounds are under trial prisoners and sentenced under martial law regulations, will have to be freed, and all political cases must be withdrawn.
5. Persons responsible for the mid-February (1983) student killing must be tried. The list of the dead and the wounded must be published and they must be paid compensation.

The Five-Point Movement has been developing as the political situation has been drifting during the last 14 months from one position to another. New elements have been added to it at various stages.

On October 14 last the 15-party alliance and the 7-party combine held two national rallies--the former at the Manik Mia Avenue and the latter at the Dhaka Stadium gate. To their common Five-point Demand, the 15-party alliance added a 21-point programme and demand, and the 7-party combine a 9-point demand.

15-Party Alliance

The 21-point programme and demand of the 15-party alliance is:

1. Prices of all essential commodities, including rice, pulses, oil and wheat, will have to be brought down. Fair-price shops will have to be set up all over the country. Hoarding and profiteering will have to be strictly dealt with.
2. Stealing, dacoity, murder, hijacking, cruelty to women, bribery etc. will have to be sternly suppressed. Especially, patronage to lawlessness and anti-social elements will have to be stopped.
3. The policy of reducing subsidy in agriculture will have to be rescinded. The prices of agricultural inputs like fertilisers, seeds, fuel, pesticides and irrigation pumps will have to be reduced by 50 percent, and their supply will have to be ensured. Share-croppers and poor peasants must get loans interest-free, and other peasants at nominal interest. The taking of bribe while advancing loan to the peasants must be strictly suppressed. The minimum fair prices of agricultural products will have to be fixed and these prices will have to be ensured. The system of lease will have to be abolished. No tax or rate in any form will be realised from land up to 25 bighas. The enhanced tax and rate on land will have to be reduced.
4. A thorough land reform and the abolition of the remnants of retrogressive feudalism will have to be carried out on the basis of "land to the tiller and co-operative" with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food. The pace of modernisation of agriculture will have to be accelerated. The land ceiling will have to be further reduced. The excess land will have to be distributed among farm labourers and landless peasants on the conditions that these lands will be non-transferable and will form part of co-operatives. Eviction of share-croppers from the land will have to strictly stopped and the system of 'tebhaga,' that is, the two-third of the produce for the share-cropper, will have to be introduced.
5. Agricultural labourers must get all-the-year round jobs and their minimum daily wages must be equal to the price of four seers of rice. All farm and agricultural labourers must get the right to trade unionism in accordance with I.L.O. conventions. The system of ration must be introduced for agricultural labourers. The activities of foreign aid organisations in the rural areas must be curbed.
6. The agreement the government signed with the Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (worker-employees solidarity council) will have to be immediately implemented in full. A living wage for the workers and the employees will have to be ensured. The prevailing illogical disparities in pay, allowances and other benefits and also in working hours will have to be eliminated. The workers and the employees must get all the rights in accordance with the I.L.O. conventions.

Daily necessities, including rice, pulses, oil, salt and sugar, will have to be supplied to the workers and the employees, irrespective of whether they are in the public or private sector, through their respective organisations at cheap and fixed rates. Retrenchment of workers and torture to them must be stopped. In the interest of proper running of the mills and factories, active participation of the workers in the management of industrial units will have to be ensured.

7. The policy of de-nationalisation will have to be rescinded. Handing over of bank, insurance, industries, railway, Biman, electricity, gas, agricultural inputs, etc to the private ownership will not be allowed. The public sector must be preserved and consolidated, and kept as the main current of the national economy.

8. Steps must be taken for the permanent solution of flood and also for proper utilisation of water resources.

9. Various problems of communities, like blacksmiths, potters, weavers and fishermen, will have to be properly solved on that they can survive.

All measures must be taken to enable the poor, rootless and destitutes, like the slum-dwellers in towns, rickshaw-pullers and day-labourers, to earn a livelihood and live a hygienic life.

Municipal taxes and house rent etc. in towns and cities will have to be reduced. Rates of electricity, gas, water etc. also will have to be reduced.

10. Foreign dependence and unbridled capitalist line must be shunned in the interest of progressive development of an independent national economy. The role of the imperialist finance capital and multinational corporation which is detrimental to national interest, will have to be resisted. Strict restriction on imports will have to be imposed with a view to ensuring market of domestic industrial products, this is necessary for the development of national industries. The quality and price of domestic products will have to be regulated. The naked plunder by the rich will have to be suppressed and genuine industrialists will have to be encouraged. Smuggling and wastage will have to be stopped. Import of luxuries will have to be totally prohibited. Trade with all countries, irrespective of their social systems, will have to be increased in national interest.

11. The infamous education policy will have to be scrapped. The education system will have to be thoroughly reformed on the basis of the recommendations of the Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission and on the principle of uniform education for all. All types of higher educational institutions must get full autonomy. The curse of illiteracy will have to be eradicated. The students must be taught the correct history of the independence struggle.

12. The right of all to practise their respective religions must be maintained. All kinds of reactionary, fanatical and communal activities and cultural perversions will have to be resisted in the interest of pro-people, progressive development of national culture. Writers and litterateurs must

get full freedom of expression and of publication. All steps must be taken to reduce the cost of publication. The Drama Regulation Act will have to be scrapped.

The present anti-people, reactionary line and also the propagation of perverted culture by the radio and the television will have to be completely stopped. Radio Bangladesh must be re-named as "Bangladesh Betar."

13. The unemployed youth must be provided with jobs, and till they get jobs, unemployment allowance must be introduced for them in phases. Use of the youth as political 'musclemen' must be stopped. Moral degradation of the youth must be stopped.

14. For women, the UN convention on "Equality of Women" must be adopted in full and the government must sign that convention. Women must be granted equal rights in economic, social, administrative and inheritance fields in accordance with the UN convention. Effective measures must be taken against torture to women, including dowry which should be made a serious punishable offence. Child labour and torture to children must be suppressed.

15. Health policy will have to be formulated with a view to esuring medi-care for all. Budgetary allocation for the health sector will have to be increased.

16. Full freedom of the Press and journalism must be granted. All black laws, including the Printing Presses and Publication Ordinance, which curtail the freedom of the Press, will have to be scrapped.

17. A thorough reform of the bureaucratic administration, which is a legacy of the colonial time, will have to be carried out. A development-oriented administration will have to be introduced and the administration democratised.

Pro-people administrative decentralisation will have to be achieved. A new administrative system will have to be established which will grant policy-making rights in respective fields to all experts employed as engineers, teachers, physicians, educationists, etc in development, education, health and other sectors.

18. Decentralisation of the High Court will have to be scrapped, and the full freedom of the judiciary ensured. Genuine demands of the lawyers will have to be accepted. Democratic reform of laws will have to be made.

19. All sorts of repression of the tribal people will have to be stopped and their (Chittagong Hill Tracts) problem will have to be solved politically.

The Vested (Enemy) Property Act will have to be scrapped.

20. The foreign policy which is subservient to the US imperialism and petro-dollar, must be repudiated. An independent and active non-aligned foreign policy will have to be introduced which will aim at achieving world peace,

free from nuclear weapons. All problems with India, including the Farakka problem, will have to be equitably solved keeping national interests in fact. Establishment of foreign base in Bangladesh will have to be resisted.

21. The spirit and values of the freedom struggle and the war of liberation of 1971 will have to be re-established and upheld. Independence and sovereignty will have to be consolidated. The four fundamental principles of state--democracy, nationalism, secularism and socialism--will have to be established. Democracy and democratic norms will have to be consolidated.

7-Party Combine

The nine-point demand of the 7-party combine is:

1. Development of rural economy through lean reform; to provide the genuine peasants with fertilisers, seeds, fuel, insecticides, irrigation facilities and farm tools at a cheaper price and also to advance to them interest-free agricultural loans through subsidies in the agricultural sector; to provide employment to the landless peasantry.
2. Implementation of the agreement signed between the government and the Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad on May 21 last; to grant unfettered right to trade unionism to the workers in accordance with ILO conventions; framing of democratic labour law and labour policy.
3. Formulation of a development-oriented and pro-people scientific education policy on the basis of the opinion of the students, teachers and guardians.
4. To ensure the rights of the women in educational, social and economic fields; to take practical steps to stop torture to women.
5. To ensure the freedom of the Press and of the journalists by stopping suppression of newspapers and repealing all black laws including the Printing Presses and Publication ordinance; withdrawal of ban on the publication of various newspapers including the Daiuk Dosh.
6. Implementation of the six-point charter of demands of the lawyers which includes the guarantee of the freedom of the judiciary.
7. To show proper respect to the freedom fighters and to ensure their rehabilitation.
8. To provide employment to the active educated unemployed.
9. To ensure agricultural rehabilitation and distribution of sufficient relief in the flood-affected areas.

BANGLADESH

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS KILLING AT INDIAN BORDER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] A Bangladesh national was killed and two others were injured seriously at Ramchandrapur border in Dinajpur district on Sunday afternoon when the Indian Border Security Forces attacked and opened fire on villagers tending cattle on Bangladesh soil, according to information received in Dhaka on Sunday.

The reliable source told the Bangladesh Observer that the Indian BSF was aided by 200 Indian nationals in their sudden swoop.

The victim is Abdur Rashid of Ramchandrapur. The injured Bangladeshi nationals are Habibur Rahman and Saifur Rahman.

The lightning raid is reported to have been launched from the adjoining Ballander camp of the Indian BSF.

Thirty-five cattlehead including 25 cows were forcibly taken away by the intruding Indian forces.

Meanwhile, on the same afternoon, the Indian BSF launched yet another attack from Khaitail camp on Bangladesh village Suihara near Bhandar BOP on the Bangladesh side. A number of cattleheads were snatched away by the attackers.

The motive behind both the incidents is yet to be known.

The Bangladesh Rifles, the source said, has in the meanwhile intensified patrol along the border belts following the grave incidents. Situation is tense in these areas.

Our Correspondent adds from Rangpur: The Indians have stepped up preparations along the border belts to erect barbed wire fence, according to information received here. A large number of thatched houses which were constructed over neutral zone on Indian side close to international boundary pillars are now being utilised as temporary shelters for Indian volunteers.

It is gathered that several hundred thatched houses have so far been constructed by Indian authorities from international boundary pillar No 10001 to 10012 just opposite Bhurungamary and Rowmary upazila borders.

According to eyewitnesses Indian volunteers aided by BSF personnel are keeping vigilance on Bangladesh territory from these shelters regularly for the past two weeks.

In the meantime Indian inhabitants of border areas have completed harvesting of jute crops and started to shift their valuable household belongings at the instruction of BSF. Most of the trenches which were filled up in June last following an accord of border officials of two countries are being re-excavated under cover of darkness.

Materials for fence are being rushed to borders by Indian authorities.

Some sources say that the Indians might start erection of fence any time.

CSO: 4600/1116

PRESS REPORTS REACTION TO ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

Hasina, Others

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chittagong, Oct 28--Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today demanded immediate withdrawal of Martial Law and a fresh schedule for parliamentary election under a neutral government.

"People no longer fear the threat of tightening of Martial Law, they will compel the Government to accept their demand through countrywide hartal on November 8 followed by non-violent non-cooperation movement from November 9," she told a huge public meeting at Laldighi Maidan amidst cheers and applause.

The meeting organised by the party was presided over by local Awami League leader M.A. Wahab and addressed, among others, by Abdul Malek Ukil, Dr Kamal Hossain, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Mannan, Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu and M.M. Mannan.

Redeeming her pledge Sheikh Hasina said, the five-point demand will be realised at any cost. The supreme sacrifice of Moyezuddin Ahmed, Delwar, Selim, Swapna and many others will not go in vain.

The successful observance of resistance day programme reflected popular will. People have adequately expressed their no-confidence in the present regime on different occasions since February 1983. It will be better for the country if the yoke of martial law is removed at the earliest, she added.

The Awami League Chief said politics of killing and imposition of martial law were initiated with the assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975. Since then members of defence forces were misguided by some civil and military adventurists to serve their interest.

She warned that this time no military autocrat will be allowed to legalise martial law by forming political party. She called upon the members of defence forces not to be misguided any more by the adventurists who were trying to drag them to confront with the people. She also called upon the people to disassociate with Janadul, formed by the adventurists.

Sheikh Hasina observed that the defence forces are the asset of the nation and her party wants to restore their due image and prestige.

Reiterating her demand for trial of the killers of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman she pledged her life for the cause of the people.

Awami League will re-establish four state principles including secularism and socialism as enunciated in the 1972 constitution, she added.

Criticising Janadil Secretary General Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury for his recent threat of Pakistan-style martial law Sheikh Hasina said people of Bangladesh will not tolerate that.

She also criticised retired Major Jalil who, she said, is trying to bluff the people in the name of religion.

Addressing the meeting Abdul Malek Ukil has called upon the people to continue the movement till the five-point demand is realised.

Dr Kamal Hossain blasted economic policy of the government saying the country is in the brink of collapse economically. He also criticised denationalisation of industries which followed retrenchment of hundreds of workers.

Renewing the party pledge Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said they will continue the movement till the country is freed from the clutches of Martial Law.

Mr Tofael Ahmed said the current movement under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina will soon culminate into a success.

The meeting started at 2 p.m. with Sheikh Hasina releasing seven pigeons in the air. Laldighi maidan was packed up with audience and microphones were set around two square miles of the maidan.

The train carrying Awami League leaders reached Chittagong last night over six hours late as Sheikh Hasina briefly addressed 19 meetings on her journey.

Party Alliances

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The 15-party and Seven-party Alliances in two separate Press statements issued on Sunday reiterated their demand for holding the election to sovereign Parliament on the basis of the Alliances five-point demand to end the present political crisis in the country.

Giving reaction to the Government announcement of postponing the parliamentary polls scheduled for December 8, both the Alliances said that such action did not cause surprise to them as the government was never sincere in holding national elections with a view to perpetuating military rule.

The central leaders of the 15-party Alliance in their statement said that election to sovereign parliament must be held on the basis of five-point demand by lifting Martial Law and dissolving the Janadal Cabinet. This is the only way through which uncertainty and crisis could be overcome, the statement added. The statement said that the millions of people gave their verdict to this effect at the national rallies held in Dhaka on October 14 last. And the Government must submit to the people's verdict if they want to save the country from chaos.

The 15-party Alliance leaders called upon the people to intensify the movement for realisation of five-point demand and achieve the objective of holding election to the sovereign parliament. The movement for achieving five-point demand will continue till the victory is won, the statement asserted.

The 15-party Alliance statement said it is known to all that the Alliance was continuing its movement for holding election to a sovereign parliament under the supervision of a neutral caretaker government by lifting Martial Law and dissolving Janadal Government. But the Government had announced the date for holding parliamentary election on December 8 which is a bluff, the statement opined. The statement recalled that previously the Government had announced the date for holding the parliamentary and presidential elections the same day on May 27 which was later cancelled.

The Seven-party alliance leaders in their statement bitterly criticised the Government for the postponement of parliamentary election for an indefinite period. In a resolution adopted at the meeting of the Alliance held on the day, the leaders demanded immediate holding of election to a sovereign parliament on the basis of five-point demand to overcome the prevailing political crisis in the country. The statement categorically said that the people will realise the five-point demand through movement and achieve the objective of holding election to a sovereign parliament under a neutral government by ending Martial Law.

The Seven-party Alliance cautioned that the Government was pushing the country towards the path of confrontation by taking recourse to repressive measures and continuing Martial Law. And for this the present Government will have to bear all the consequences, the Alliance warned. The Alliance also said that the people will unitedly resist any conspiracy undermining the independence and sovereignty of the country.

Announcement by Ershad's Assistant

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Oct 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Fresh election dates will be announced soon.

This was disclosed by Barrister A.R. Yusuf, Special Assistant to the President at a Press briefing at Bangabhaban on Monday evening.

The Government is hopeful of reaching unanimity with the Opposition political alliances and parties shortly on the national elections date. The Government will also welcome any proposal including a round table conference aiming at resolving the political crisis, Mr A.R. Yusuf said.

Replying to a question whether the Government would concede to the Opposition demand for a neutral Government, Mr Yusuf said, "the Government may consider it if the Opposition could define the concept of neutrality." He said that the two alliances and the Jamaat had spelled out the nature of neutral Government in three different ways. When a questioner pointed out the Opposition hinted at 1970 elections being held under a neutral Government where the Government leaders neither contested the polls nor backed any party, the presidential aide hastened to add that they participated in 1978 elections.

Replying to a question whether the Government is having any talks with the Opposition to reach an understanding, Mr A.R. Yusuf said some channels were opened between the Government and the Opposition during the last political dialogue and those are still open. Asked whether the Government would initiate any discussion, the presidential aide said, "It is the basic responsibility of the Government to take initiative to open discussion and I don't see any reason why it should not be fruitful." He told another questioner who asked whether the Janadil Ministers would be dropped, that this Government was a Martial Law Government and Janadil supported its programmes.

The Government may consider inducting Ministers from other parties who would come forward to support the programmes of this Government he added. When asked how a consensus could be reached without accepting the two demands--withdrawal of Martial Law and a neutral Government, Mr Yusuf said in any game both the parties take a rigid stand but there is always some flexibility.

The presidential aide said General Ershad is determined to transfer power to a representative Government and will make all appropriate efforts required in that matter so that all political parties including the 15-party alliance, the seven-party combine and Jamaat-e-Islami participate in both the parliamentary and presidential elections. The President hopes they will understand that there is no alternative to election for transition to democracy, he informed.

Giving a detailed background of the President's election programmes vis-a-vis the Opposition's demands, Mr Yusuf said that President Ershad conceded the demands and fixed the date for elections to the Parliament first. Mr A.R. Yusuf regretted that while on the one hand the President accommodated demands of the Opposition incorporated in 5 points, they continued to raise one new demand after another. He termed the two demands of the Opposition alliances--withdrawal of Martial Law and neutral Government as new ones saying that the 5 points sought the withdrawal of Martial Law rule and not Martial Law. In this connection he mentioned that President Ershad announced phasing out of Martial Law in October 11 rally and appealed to the Opposition to participate in the elections on December 8. But the Opposition rejected the election scheduled for December 8 and announced resistance programme to prevent people from filing nominations and voting on December 8 by calling hartal, he said.

Mr A.R. Yusuf told newsmen that the President had postponed the elections to avoid escalation of tension and confrontation and to show respect to the Opposition demand. He said the elections had neither been shifted nor cancelled. It has only been postponed, he said. The Government will make all-out efforts so that in near future election dates can be fixed and the country can get an elected representative Government, he added. Mr A.R. Yusuf said this is another example that President Ershad accommodated the demands of the Opposition.

Mr Yusuf said that President Ershad sincerely wanted to establish a representative Government in the country with the consent of the people. With the major Opposition parties boycotting the polls, the people's opinion would not have been reflected and hence the elections had to be postponed.

The presidential aide said that in July 1983 President Ershad announced the election programmes for three-tier polls in the local bodies. In November 1983 the programmes for holding presidential and parliamentary election programmes were announced when there was no Janadil. The opposition demanded the Parliament elections first and postponement of Upazila elections, he said. The President accommodated all their demands. In April last efforts were made to reach a consensus through dialogue and the President accepted the demands for holding parliament elections first, releasing political prisoners including convicts, allowing open political activities and withdrawing ban on newspapers. And when the new date for parliamentary elections was announced, two new demands were announced by the Opposition, Mr A.R. Yusuf added.

Return to Democracy Urged

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Oct 84 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

By a recent announcement made by the administration, general elections scheduled for December 8 have been postponed. This has come as no surprise because of the emphasis laid by the government on the participation of the opposition being the condition for the elections to be held. But the general reaction of the people to the postponement includes a sharp sense of disappointment over the only chance of a return to people's rule that came after years of expectation being delayed—if not lost. And the sentiment is one which, we believe, is shared by the leaderships on either side of the fence—government and opposition. Because for both of them, as for the populace, a transition to democracy was a pledge and commitment. And both are certainly aware of it.

So the stalemate continues. It does so in spite of our knowing clearly what we are struggling for. Where, in fact, we seem to have failed is not

what our goal is—but how to reach it. And this is a failure that has, more or less, kept repeating itself over the past 14 years. Therefore it was time we succeeded. At any rate there ought to have been a positive bid made by everybody concerned not to fail.

What explains this repeated failure—and frustration for the people? A passing scrutiny of the factors, mostly the imponderables, responsible for it might help shed light on it. There was a constitutional vacuum immediately following independence in 1971 till the formulation of a constitution in 1972. But unconstitutional amendments cut into it, beginning with the 4th amendment, under the successive mixed governments have only amounted to an orchestrated series of denials of the right of the people, which is the key-stone of a democratic constitution. As a result our constitution has ceased to be a document representing the rights of the people. It may be noted that in all the practising and viable democracies of the world 'People's Rights' is inscribed at the very top of the constitutions of the countries concerned. Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people, was no claptrap. Nor are words like 'all the ills of democracy' can be cured by more democracy' idle polemics. Instead, if you wipe out the very chance of it ever growing, and extinguish the very flicker of it, it becomes a quite another situation.

Then we have had political parties and alliances—almost evenly balanced between incumbent governments and the oppositions. What appears to have occurred in this process is that the idea of 'one-man, one vote' seems to have been logically stretched to one man one party. What is more interesting is that the guiding philosophy behind such proliferation of parties seems not to be the solution of problems on the basis of programmes formulated with the solutions outlined precisely—but building power bases. And where power is the driving force rather than a real intention to solve problems, force is the inevitable outcome. The present scenario in the country is an illustration of the same. Hence the need for a radical change in our attitude and style in politics.

Problem rather than party or power, and workable programmes based on them should be the new orientation given to our politics, on either side. And our problems are legion. Nearly all the national sectors—education, (literacy rate), economy (self-reliance), agriculture (food), industry (production and export capacity), legal justice (the judiciary), administration (efficiency and corruption), law and order (security and the rule of law), public health (adequate medicare for 10-crore people) and so on—is riddled with problems. Against

such a socio-economic backdrop any line of action in the political field not aimed at directly coming to grips with the country's problems and solving them is hard to understand, nor the problem-plagued society is prepared to accept.

And once this fundamental reversal of form and substance could be brought about, the populist response would be in terms of accepting or rejecting an individual or party-nominee in a general election on the basis of his work-programmes. It is thus that the people's right in choosing their government could be established, and not by means of force or money. Sovereignty of parliament is another word for the sovereignty of the people established in a free and fair election.

We seem to have now got stuck with a fundamental issue—namely, elections. What is the way out? The answer certainly is not returning to Martial Law—but to democracy. General Ershad himself would not relish the former, because he is pledge-bound to give democracy to the people. The only way left is sit down and talk. Isolation only breeds bitterness. Nationally or internationally solution of a crisis through talks even between very hostile nations (US and USSR), or groups (Duarte in El-Salvador and guerillas) is the sensible course. The kind of confrontation that we seem to be heading for is senseless in our situation. The sort of war-cries that are becoming louder every day do not become us. It may simply ruin us.

Let the alliances and government return to the negotiation table. Let something be given to everybody and not everything to somebody. That is the way we can end—and ought to end—such a crisis. To do otherwise would be not only dangerously unwise. It will be a betrayal of the people.

CSO: 4600/1116

BANGLADESH

FLOOD REHABILITATION ENDANGERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 26 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Hossain Khasru]

[Text] With the government funnelling most of its available funds to meet the pressing needs of flood relief and rehabilitation, the public sector development programme is yet to get off the ground this year (1984-85).

A recent report says that no development fund could be released during the first three months of the year till September 1984. Only recurring expenditures, meant mostly for meeting the expenses on account of salaries for some project personnel were provided during the period. The situation is likely to remain unchanged till December next when the pruning exercise relating to annual development programme (ADP) for the year would have given the final shape.

The usual ADP funding problems are more seriously pressing this year because of cash foodgrain imports by the government and relief and rehabilitation support measures. The revenue earnings are not likely to bolster in the way the national budget for the year projected. The severe economic dislocations in the wake of the floods and continuing recession in the organised sector involving trade and industry have already caused a shortfall in projected revenue earnings. The shortfall was to the tune of Taka 774 million during the first three months of the current fiscal year. And what has been of more concern here is that the monthly revenue-earning position continued to reflect a declining trend.

It is too early at this stage to comment on the budgetary outcome. But, one thing remains quite certain that if the present economic malaise along with political uncertainties persist longer, the whole budgetary exercise of the government would be in a critical mess. The shortfall in last year's projected revenue earnings at Taka 3.63 billion provide here a dismal remainder to the finance-managers of the government about how elusive the revenue targets can finally turn out.

Expectation Belied

The ADP [word illegible] 1984-85, having a taka component of taka 20.49 billion, and project aid disbursement estimate at taka 18.47 billion was earlier expected to have some comfortable cushions in terms of availability of local resources. Almost 30 percent of the estimated project aid disbursements were estimated to come in the form of reimbursable local currency expenditures, thus making room for larger availability of local currency resources compared to earlier years. A faster implementation performance was thus envisaged in view of this expected reimbursements' of local currency expenditures under project aid.

The latest available indication, however, showed that the projection about project aid disbursements in the shape of reimbursable local currency expenditures was not likely to hold true for the year. Such reimbursements totalled Taka 2.81 billion in 1983-84 when the government spent in local currency for certain projects a sum of Taka 4.52 billion with the expectation of higher project aid disbursements in the form of reimbursements of local currency expenditures for the year. Meeting this shortfall presented the most financial constraint for the government.

The virtual standstill position in development activities under the ADP during the first three-month period of the current fiscal year makes it quite clear that the target of completing "a relatively large number of projects" in 1984-85 compared to earlier years would remain by and large unfulfilled. The ADP for 1984-85 incorporates 800 projects, reflecting otherwise a substantial consolidation compared to nearly 1400 projects three years back.

But, the consolidation, rationalisation and pruning exercise which has been undertaken by the present administration since 1982-83 has not succeeded in improving the overall implementation performance. Against a total of 142 projects scheduled for completion in 1983-84, only 72 projects could thus be completed during the year. Even in core projects which were supposed to enjoy the highest priority, there were no progress in eight such projects last year.

CSO: 4600/1114

PRESS NOTE ON STABILIZATION OF JUTE PRICES

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Oct 84 p 8

[Text]

The Government on Sunday said that the ban imposed on further registration of export sale would stabilise price of raw jute in the internal market; reports BSS.

The measure would also curb down speculative sales it added. Refuting the contention of Bangladesh Jute Association's Chairman, the Government in a Press Note said that ban on further registration would not only benefit the local mills but also enable the shippers to buy jute to meet their foreign commitments. If the mills and shippers remain active growers were sure to get a remunerative price, it stressed.

The Government assured the sellers and buyers that with the sale contracts in hand and those to be concluded under the bilateral trade agreements, the country would be able to export the entire surplus quantity of raw jute.

Following is the Press Note issued by the Ministry of Jute and Textiles.

"Attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press conference held by the Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA); on 26th October. In course of the Press conference the Chairman of BJA is reported to have urged the Government to withdraw the order on further registration of sale of raw jute in order to avoid its adverse repercussion upon growers' price and external demand in future. The Government wants to issue the following clarification for the information of all concerned.

'For the last four years the production of raw jute in Bangladesh has remained around 50 lakh bales. This is below the usual domestic and external demand. In spite of this, shortage of fibre was not felt until 1983-84 because of large stock carried forward from 1979-80. Comparative figures for 1982-83 and 1983-84 reveal some interesting features—

Year	Saje	Export
1982-83	27.76 lakh bales	22.46 lakh bales
1983-84	31.53 lakh bales	19.02 lakh bales

"In spite of bigger sale in 1983-84, export was lower than that of previous year. This was due to shortage of raw jute. This shortage caused steady rise in prices during the second half of the year 1983-84. A large number of shippers failed to export jute as per contracts. It was unfortunate that some big shippers and a few prominent members of BJA were among the defaulters. The Government received a large number of complaints from the buyers.

"It was known from the very beginning of the current season that the supply of new jute crop would be substantially reduced because of the unprecedented flood. Even then, our shippers were not careful in entering into foreign sale contracts. In the 2 months of July to September 10.97 lakh bales were registered against last year's figure of 6.98 lakh bales. The volume of sales registered this year was unprecedented. It sharply pushed up the price of jute in the internal market. As a result, the number

of defaulting shippers started increasing. The Government was receiving frantic telegrams from the overseas buyers because of non-receipt of contracted jute. Bangladesh was earning a very bad name in the international market.

"On the other hand, the jute mills, the major consumer of our jute and the biggest employer of workers, faced a grim situation because of high price of jute. The buyers complained against such high price of jute and jute goods. Since Bangladesh has to export about 92 per cent of jute in fibre form and in the form of finished goods the Government had to intervene to preserve the market.

'The market can be retained only if Bangladesh can supply jute and jute goods as per contracts and at competitive prices. Otherwise the jute growers will suffer in the end; apart from substantial loss of foreign ex-

change to the country.

"After careful survey of this year's crop, the Government has found that about 14 lakh bales of raw jute are available for export after meeting the requirement of domestic mills. The ban imposed on further registration of export sale will stabilise price of raw jute in the internal market. It will not only benefit the local mills but will also enable the shippers to buy jute to meet their foreign commitments. If the mills and the shippers remain active growers are sure to get a remunerative price. Ban on further registration will curb down speculative sales.

"The Government wants to assure the sellers and the buyers that with the sale contracts in hand and those to be concluded under the bilateral trade agreements, the country will be able to export the entire surplus quantity of raw jute".

CSO: 4600/1116

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

FRG WHEAT GRANT--Bangladesh will receive 20 thousand metric tons of wheat worth about Taka 12 crore from West Germany as grants under an agreement signed in Dhaka on Wednesday between the two countries, reports BSS. The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka Dr Walter Baron Von Marschall and Mr Anisuzzaman Khan, Joint Secretary External Resources Division, Ministry of Finance, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries. The wheat will largely be utilized in Food for Work Programmes in the districts of Jamalpur and Tangail under the auspices of the World Food Programme. Five thousand tons of wheat will be monetized to generate local funds for the bilateral Bangla-German Food Security Programme. With the shipment of 20,000 tons, the total supplies of wheat from the Federal Republic of Germany to Bangladesh since 1972 amount to about 450,000 tons. The wheat supplies are provided exclusively on grant basis. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Oct 84 p 10]

NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY--Mr Faruq A. Choudhury has taken over as Foreign Secretary in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS. He succeeds Mr A.H.S. Ataul Karim who has been posted as Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Geneva. Born in 1934, Mr Faruq A. Chowdhury joined the Foreign Service in 1956 and served in various capacities in Rome, Beijing, Algiers and the Hague. He was the first Chief of protocol of the Government of Bangladesh and was Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in London from 1974 to 1976. Mr Choudhury was the Bangladesh Ambassador to European Economic Community and Benelux countries from 1978 to 1982. He was the chief coordinator of the 14th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held in Dhaka in December 1983. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Oct 84 p 10]

AWAMI LEAGUE COUNCIL SESSION--The date of the Council Session of the Bangladesh Awami League has been shifted. The biennial council session of the party which was scheduled to be held this month will now be held on December 27, 28 and 29. The Central Working Committee in its two-day meeting which concluded on September 14 took this decision in the light of the recommendation by the two-day extended meeting of the Working Committee on September 11 and 12 last, says a Press release on Sunday. The date has been shifted considering the situation created because of devastating flood in the country, the Press release said. Accordingly, the dates of council sessions of party's union, thana and district units have also been refixed.

As per new schedule council session in union level will be completed by October 30 of thana level by November 21 and of district units by December 12. A meeting of the Central Working Committee of the Awami League will be held at 9 a.m. today (Monday) at the party central office. All the working committee members now in Dhaka have been requested to attend it. The Central Working Committee of the Awami League has expelled Mr S.M. Babar Ali and Mr Mohammad Ali of Khulna unit for six months and one year respectively on charges of breach of party discipline, the Press release said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Oct 84 p 1]

GREETINGS TO ZHAO--President Lt General Hussain Muhammad Ershad had felicitated Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the founding of China, reports BSS. President Ershad said, "On the auspicious occasion of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, I have much pleasure in extending to Your Excellency our most cordial greetings and warmest felicitations. I am confident that the great Chinese people will achieve renewed success in their earnest endeavours towards progress and prosperity at home and peace and security in the world. I take this opportunity to express my sincere hope that the traditional bonds of friendship, mutual understanding and close cooperation between our two countries will be further deepened and widened in the years to come. I extend my best wishes for Your Excellency's good health, happiness and long life as well as for the continued well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of China. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and personal esteem. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Oct 84 p 1]

RETURN FROM PRC--Barrister Moudud Ahmed, a BNP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister returned to Dhaka on Friday from Peking after a two-week goodwill visit there. He was invited by the Institute of Foreign Affairs China. Mr Ahmed during his visit addressed a meeting at the Foreign Affairs Institute and met important officials there. He met Deng Biao Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and other important personalities. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 84 p 12]

NEWSPAPERS BANNED--The Government in separate orders issued on Wednesday prohibited the publication of any subsequent issues of Bangla weeklies 'Ittehad' and 'Khabar.' With the banning of publications of these two weeklies, the total number of newspapers banned stands at four. It may be recalled that the daily newspaper 'Dainik Desh' and the weekly 'Joyjatra' were earlier banned by the Government. The weeklies banned on Wednesday were alleged to have published prejudicial reports on current political affairs of the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs in exercise of the power conferred by Clause (c) of Sub-section (1) of Section 17 of the Special Powers Act, 1974 (Act No IXIV of 1974) prohibited the publication of the above newspapers. BSS adds: The action has been taken against weekly 'Khabar' for publishing prejudicial reports captioned "they are liars," "so that Bangalees are not enraged again," and "killing of the six, "foot steps of 69," while the action against weekly 'Ittehad' has been taken for publishing prejudicial reports [word illegible] "recovery of

arms coming from India," "who is in power? "we do not obey the commander's rule" and "Bangabhaban gherao in the issues of September 21 and 28 last of the two weeklies. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Oct 84 p 1]

RICE FROM PRC--Bangladesh will purchase 20,000 tons of rice from the People's Republic of China. The decision to purchase rice from China has been finalised recently. The purchase will be made in cash and the cost of per ton of rice will be 234 dollars on the cost and freight basis. The shipment will be made on priority basis from the port of Shanghai to Chittagong port. The Chinese offer for selling of rice to Bangladesh was given to a high-powered delegation visiting China during the earlier part of this month. The offer was accepted by the government a few days back when it was found suitable compared to other offers from different rice exporting countries. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Sep 84 pp 1, 8]

COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT--The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of Bangladesh expressed its concern over the political stalemate and called upon the government to take immediate and appropriate steps to stop aggravation of the situation. In a statement to the press on Saturday, the CPB said that when the national rallies in Dhaka on October 14 clearly manifested people's wishes regarding lifting of Martial Law and holding of free and fair elections under a neutral government, the statement regarding holding of upazila polls had astonished the people. The CPB said that if the Government continued to ignore the verdict of the people, the political situation would deteriorate and an uncertainty would loom large. Step should be taken to check any catastrophic following political crisis. The statement condemned what it said political repression and said that opposition leaders were being harassed and some, including a BNP leader of Rangpur, had been arrested. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Oct 84 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 4600/1120

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS SETBACKS IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Warren Unna]

[Text] Washington, Oct 28--There have been a series of jolts to Indo-American relations during the past six weeks which U.S. officials say have been misunderstood, misinterpreted, twisted, contrived and, for the most part, not based on fact.

But the U.S. officials fail to realize that U.S. credibility no longer can be assumed to be taken for granted by Governments and peoples abroad, particularly under the quixotic decisions of President Ronald Reagan's Administration, particularly when it involves Pakistani-American relations and then--whether recognized by the Reagan Administration or not--thereby disconcerts India.

The series of events well may amount to no more than "a tempest in a teapot," as one longtime veteran of U.S. political and military diplomacy in the subcontinent described them. But the sequence is undeniable.

On September 13, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, a former U.S. Ambassador to India, who has been serving as deputy chairman of the Senate select committee on intelligence, arrived at a committee briefing already underway, interrupted and questioned the CIA witness to confirm a report already given to him. He then rushed out again to inform reporters that there was an intelligence account that Prime Minister Gandhi had been advised by some of her aides to authorize a pre-emptive attack against Pakistan's nuclear installation to prevent her going ahead with developing nuclear weapons--the same action which Israel, some years ago, successfully pulled off against Iraq.

The second part of the CIA briefing was that Mrs Gandhi had rejected this recommendation. But the fat already was in the fire. And it was not helped the next day when the Department of State spokesman, asked to comment, said: "While we have been concerned in recent weeks by suggestions of a temporary cooling in Indo-Pakistani relations...we do not believe that conflict between the two countries, as reported by the Press, was or is, imminent."

Apparently what motivated the intelligence report was the failure of U.S. surveillance satellites to locate two Indian Air Force Jaguar squadrons. It later turned out that the satellite operation had been hampered by a cloud cover.

Next, the Reagan Administration pressured Congress to kill an amendment by the Senate minority whip, Senator Alan Cranston of California, aimed at cutting off aid to Pakistan because of her persistent "nuclear explosive capability" (the State Department's favourite in-House term) efforts Members of President Reagan's Republican Party then got overly supportive on the Senate floor by standing up and declaring that Pakistan was suffering from a threat by India. The Reagan Administration denied this later. But it consistently has tried to dissuade Pakistan from continuing on her nuclear path with the sweetener of its \$3.2 billion, six-year U.S. military and economic air programme--Mr Reagan's aides didn't want any cut-off now, and succeeded in getting the Cranston amendment killed early this month, just before Congress adjourned.

The scene now shifts to Lahore where, on October 10, the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Deane Hinton, in response to a question after a talk he gave to the council of national security studies, declared the USA would be "responsive" should India ever attack Pakistan. He added: "I think the other people (Indians) know it, and since they know it, I don't think it's going to happen."

Ambassador Hinton is known to his State Department colleagues for his readiness to shoot from the hip, as witnessed by his ability to antagonize American critics of the Reagan Administration's Central American policy by minimizing the Right-wing "death squads" in El Salvador during his previous tour there as Ambassador. The 1959 U.S. security treaty with Pakistan obligates the USA only to consult in the event of a Communist aggression. It does not involve the USA coming to the defence of Pakistan in any fight with India--as witness the bitter Pakistani recriminations against the USA when Washington failed to bail her out after her 1965 attack against India.

Ambassador Hinton has not been called home for "consultations"--a frequent diplomatic euphemism for a spanking. But his boss, Richard W. Murphy, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, has just spent a good many hours in Delhi trying to reassure officials that the USA has no plans to side with Pakistan against India.

Next, the editor of Nawa-i-Waqi, a Pakistan Urdu daily, arrives in Washington as an invitee on a cultural exchange programme, has a talk with some unnamed "White House officials" during his tour, visits the Pakistani Embassy; and then dispatches a story declaring President Reagan has promised President Zia a U.S. "nuclear umbrella" protection if Pakistan foregoes developing its own "nuclear explosive capability," (something which Zia consistently has denied ever undertaking).

When news of that published story bounced back here, the State Department spokesman, attributing it to "an Indian newspaper account," flatly declared: "No such offer has been made by the U.S. and none has been requested by Pakistan." It does turn out, however, that President Reagan, in one of his periodic communications with President Zia, did write to him about his continuing concern over Pakistan's secret nuclear activities, and how they "could undermine all that we are trying to achieve." This was at the time Mr Reagan was trying to stop the Cranston amendment from being passed by the Senate.

Next, there were reports in the Indian Press that the USA was seeking a Nato-type mutual defence treaty with Pakistan--something U.S. officials insist never has been offered, nor ever sought by Pakistan (which, presumably, is itchy enough with Soviet troops right across the Afghan border).

Aggravating all this (from the Indian point of view) has been the extended visit here this month of Pakistan's super-smooth Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, a former Ambassador to Washington, who knows his way around Washington power circles.

He has let it be known that Pakistan's military shopping list he now includes the U.S. E2-C "hawkeye." This is an aircraft carrier launched high-flying spy satellite plane loaded with computers and radar which detect air targets 300 miles away and co-ordinate the attack on these targets by the F-16 fighter bombers Pakistan already is being furnished by the USA.

The Reagan Administration now acknowledges that Pakistan has made such a request, but insists no decision to furnish these expensive planes (\$685 million for a package of four when sold to Egypt a while back) has been made. Yet nobody in the Reagan Administration has said the request will be denied. Pakistan's built-in lobby in the U.S. Pentagon presumably is eager to go ahead. The U.S. State Department reportedly is banking on procrastinating any denial--in the belief that Pakistan never will be able to find the funds for such a trinket and so a denial can be avoided.

Indian officials here have entered their strong concern about what more sophisticated weapon might do to South Asian tranquility. The Embassy at least has been assured that the concern has been noted and is being considered.

But the unstated background music in all this is the curious U.S. role in Afghanistan. There was nothing curious in the U.S. fury over the Soviet invasion there more than four years ago. The curious business is how the USA has responded since. It suddenly boosted Pakistan to "front-line" defence of U.S. interest, endorsed a massive \$3.2 billion assistance programme on the public record, and a secret CIA support for the Afghan freedom fighters on the private record.

But the U.S. effort has not succeeded in forcing the Soviets to pull out; and the Afghan freedom fighters have complained that the assistance is not enough ever to let them win. There is a strong suspicion that it is Reagan

Administration policy simply to keep the Soviets mired down in Afghanistan as a continuing showcase example to the world of Soviet aggression.

Pakistan, for its part, both suffers and gains by such a U.S. policy. It suffers because of the massive intrusion of Afghan refugees which can serve only to revive the old fears of a separatist Pakhunistan movement. It gains because the U.S. arms acquired are being deployed where the mass of its troops always have been--on the Indian border.

General Yaqub, during his visit here, expressed his "concern" that his country's relations with India, the Soviet Union and the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan are suffering a "down turn."

The State Department points to its own independent studies, indicating Soviet-engineered air, mortar and artillery incidents on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan have jumped from just three during the first half of this year to almost weekly beginning in August.

All this gives the Reagan Administration the rationale to continue its encouragement of Pakistan as a "front-line" State. But it certainly is not clear what it means by "frontline." And it also gives India reason for apprehension every time one of these U.S.-Pakistani transactions occurs--be they misunderstood, misinterpreted, twisted, contrived or, for the most part, not based on fact.

CSO: 4600/1125

MAHARASHTRA LEADER EXPELLED FROM CONGRESS-I

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 26 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25--Reminiscent of the action taken a month ago against Mr F.M. Khan, then treasurer of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party, Mrs Gandhi today expelled Mr Jambuvantrao Dhote, M.P. from Maharashtra and prominent Vidharbha leader, from the party for "anti-party activities and gross breach of party discipline."

The step was taken on the recommendation of the Disciplinary Action Committee, Mr G.K. Moopanar, AICC (I) General Secretary, said in an announcement. It is indicative of the tough stand taken by the central leadership against recalcitrant members lest they cause unrest in the party on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr Dhote would, in fact, have been disciplined earlier. It was almost on the same day that Mr Khan had gone on a protest fast at the AICC (I) headquarters here to highlight how the "latecomers" in the party were being given top organizational and official posts, ignoring the claim of "loyalists"--those who stayed with Mrs Gandhi in her days of difficulty--that Mr Dhote issued a statement to the Press exactly on the same lines.

Statement

In his statement, he had referred to reports of a campaign for his expulsion from the party by the Maharashtra Youth Congress (I) president, Mr Gurudas Kamat, for his (Mr Dhote's) alleged attacks on the party president, Mrs Gandhi. Mr Dhote contended that Kamat had left the party earlier and "abused" Mrs Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi, but "now he is a spokesman of the party." On the contrary, Mr Dhote contended, Mr Kamat should have been removed from the party post and an inquiry instituted into the "conspiracy" he was hatching.

Mr Dhote had then alleged that there were "villains" within the party "and it is these villains who are trying to split the party through the conspiracy." He held "Mr Kamat is a mouthpiece of this conspiracy." According to Mr Dhote, there were anti-party, anti-Indira and even anti-social elements and those who opposed the party programme and policy and were in fact, rank opportunists. "It is for Mrs Gandhi to choose to lead these people or those who were with her during the bad days of the Janata regime."

Soon after, some Youth Congress (I) workers of Maharashtra sent telegrams to the party's central leadership demanding the suspension of Mr Dhote from the party, though he had asserted that there was no "link up" between what he had stated and what Mr Khan was doing, "and it is possible that we think alike."

Charge of 'Caucus'

However, Mr Dhote's detractors brought to the notice of the party high command his "repeated public utterances against the central leadership and his anti-party activities." In particular, the account of a speech Mr Dhote made at a public meeting at Amravati on October 22 was cited, in course of which he reportedly charged that a "caucus" consisting of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Arun Nehru and Mr Makhanlal Fotedar was ruling the country in the name of Mrs Gandhi.

Mr Dhote reportedly said that he had been telling Mrs Gandhi that "this caucus" would prove dangerous for the party and the Government, for none of them had any experience in politics and none of them took part in any movement and yet they were dabbling with the Government and party affairs and today they have become big leaders. He also stated that "during the Janata regime, when Mrs Gandhi was facing so many cases in the courts, these leaders were busy in their own occupations.

CSO: 4600/1122

NORTHEAST PARTIES REPORTED DIVIDED ON MERGER ISSUE

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 28 Oct 84 p 7

[Text] Shillong, Oct 27--The leaders of the All-Party Hill Leaders' Conference and the Hills' State People's Democratic Party in Meghalaya are still divided on the issue of merger, and with this the prospect of the formation of a single united party has further receded, according to political observers here.

The leaders, it is felt, will keep the unity issue burning till the coming Lok Sabha elections. The general council of the HSPDP has not favoured the proposal to sink its identity for creating a new regional party in conjunction with the APHLC. In a unanimous resolution, the central council, which met here recently, said the party stood for "unity" with all like-minded regional parties "through a body."

The resolution virtually upheld the proposal of a federal type of super party, with leverage to retain the distinct identities of the respective parties. This, observers say, betrays the underlying apprehensions in the minds of the HSPDP leadership in dissolving itself completely. The idea of federal structure of the party is designed basically to leave an escape route should the experiment misfire.

Observers say that the adoption of the resolution also confirms Mr Hopingstone Lyngdoh's unquestionable following in the party. It remains to be seen what course of action the "radicals" take.

The following is the text of the resolution: "Having been convinced that the identity, the existence and the interest of his people will be better safeguarded by the regional parties within the State, we, the members of the Hills State People's Democratic Party, do hereby resolve to unite with the APHLC and other like-minded regional parties through that body (federal in character).

"Further, the council empowers the central working committee of the HSPDP to initiate negotiations and to finally decide the matter with the APHLC and other like-minded regional parties."

It may be mentioned here that a new regional party has recently been set up in Meghalaya--the Democratic Hills Movement, under the presidentship

of Mr Robert S. Kharsing. The party has also decided to set up Mr Martin Narayan Majao, a former Minister, as its candidate for the forthcoming Lok Sabha election from the Shillong constituency.

The party further decided to initiate talks with the other regional parties in the State for a consensus candidate for the Tura seat to ensure a "joint front" against the Congress-I. The Congress-I is also likely to announce its nominee by the end of this month. Mr G. G. Swell, till now holding a diplomatic assignment abroad, is trying for a Congress-I ticket from the Shillong constituency. But it is understood that Mr Sangma, president of Meghalaya PCC-I, is not in favour of giving a party ticket to Mr Swell as he might create further complications in Meghalaya politics.

CSO: 4600/1123

ELECTION COMMISSION ORDERS REVISION OF ASSAM ROLLS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 28 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 27--The Election Commission has issued orders for intensive revision of electoral rolls in Assam in view of the observations of the Supreme Court in the Assam election case and the Commission's own stand, it was stated here today.

The process of house-to-house enumeration will begin on November 15. While carrying out such revision, steps would be taken to ensure that only eligible persons are included in the electoral rolls, without causing any harassment to bona fide citizens. Those eligible persons who attain the age of 21 on January 1, 1985, would be entitled to be enrolled.

Undertaking

The Election Commission had given the undertaking that it would carry out revision of the electoral rolls for all constituencies in the State of Assam "which shall, as far as practicable, be intensive."

A further undertaking given was that the word "citizen" would be substituted for the word "elector" wherever it occurred in the electoral card. The electoral card had, accordingly, been revised.

The new form clarifies that any false declaration given by a person will render him liable for penal action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, with imprisonment for a term extending to one year or with fine or with both.

The Commission said, in a Press Note, that during the revision, the electoral cards would be filled in duplicate, to be signed both by the enumerator and the head of the household, and one copy would be given to the head of the household.

The inclusion of a name in the electoral card would not automatically entitle a person to have his name included in the draft electoral rolls. After the house-to-house enumeration and before the rolls are published in draft, a detailed scrutiny would be made by the electoral registration officer so that only names of persons who, *prima facie*, fulfil the qualifications for registration are included in the electoral rolls to be published, in draft.

The All-Assam Students Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad today decided to begin a "mass contact drive" to explain to the people about the latest position of their movement on the foreign nationals' issue in the State, adds PTI.

CSO: 4600/1123

JANATA-LED FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT ON POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, October 28 (UNI)--The Janata Party-led united front today promised to provide people with a "progressive and accountable" government, thus putting an end to the "diabolic politics" of the Congress.

A statement on its "programmes and policies" released here today spoke of electoral reforms, a ban on defections, public auditing of party funds, lowering of voting age to 18, appointment of lokayukts and lokpals and reconstruction of the apparatus of governance.

It committed itself to the two-fold objective of reviving democratic institutions and strengthening national unity--a pre-requisite for boosting the morale of the people and serving the weakest in society.

The front, which suffered a depletion in its strength when its two partners, the Democratic Socialist Party and the Rashtriya Congress defected, reaffirmed its faith in democracy, secularism and socialism that "drew inspiration from Gandhian ethos."

The other commitments of the front were: re-establishment of the rule of law, special courts for trial of those involved in communal riots and atrocities on Harijans, making the planning commission a statutory autonomous body, antyodayas programmes, creation of opportunity for full employment, raising of a land army and provision of drinking water in the countryside.

The front called for an intensive campaign to eliminate mass illiteracy within a decade, provision of housing-sites to the rural poor within two years, introduction of socially-just wages and income policy and freeing the public sector from bureaucratic and political interference.

Referring to the demand for decentralisation of power, it promised a Centre-state council and provision of adequate resources to the states down to the levels of zilla parishads and panchayats.

The ten-page document also contained a critique of the Congress rule. "Never before since independence has our nation faced a threat to its unity, democratic existence and security," it said.

Patna (PTI): The chief minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh, has claimed that several opposition leaders in Bihar are willing to join the Congress.

Addressing a public meeting at Sheikhpura in Munger district yesterday, Mr Singh said the return of Mr S.N. Sinha, MP, and Mr Ram Lakan Singh Yadav, MLA, to the Congress has strengthened the ruling party.

Vijaywada (UNI): A public meeting here this evening, scheduled to be addressed by the former Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N. Bhaskara Rao, was cancelled by the police at the eleventh hour and prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P.C. were promulgated in and around the venue of the meeting.

CSO: 4600/1124

INDIA

MEXICAN MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS INDIRA GANDHI

Bomgay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, October 28 (PTI)--The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has said that the acquisition of extremely sophisticated aircraft by Pakistan is "causing much disquiet in India" as it "places all our installations within their range."

"No government can neglect taking basic defensive precautions," the Prime Minister said in an interview to Mr Octavio Bernard Becerril of "El Nacional" of Mexico.

She noted that while announcing its acquisition of these new weapons Pakistan also suggested a no-war pact. This seemed strange, because previously it had rejected similar suggestions made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri and "myself," the Prime Minister said.

"But we believe in peace. That is why I have proposed a treaty of peace, friendship with Pakistan."

"No Threat"

Replying to a specific question what course India would follow if Pakistan continued arming itself increasingly, the Prime Minister said, "I can categorically say that India does not constitute any danger to Pakistan."

She said that earlier, Pakistan received military help in the name of fighting the Soviet Union and communist China. But those weapons were actually used against India.

"It is difficult for us to forget this experience at a time when Pakistan is again being supplied with military hardware. They say it is to safeguard it from a possible threat from Afghanistan. Pakistan has on several occasions let it be known that it will not fight the Soviet Union. It is good friends with China."

Mrs Gandhi replied to an array of questions including prospects of a North-South dialogue, developments in the Indian Ocean region, Indo-Mexican co-operation and prospects of the Congress party entering into an alliance in the southern states in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

Asked in what manner the establishments of U.S. nuclear bases in the Indian Ocean, more particularly, the installation of arsenal in the island of Diego Garcia, posed a threat to India, Mrs Gandhi said India disapproved of nuclear bases anywhere.

It was particularly unfortunate and unpardonable that bases should be set up in a region which had been free from that menace. "The base at Diego Garcia is a threat to all the countries in the region. The entire Indian peninsula has become unsafe and threatened." Also the inevitable dynamics of power politics was that one presence attracted another.

Mrs Gandhi said that Mexico and India were both making every effort to promote peace, understanding and co-operation in the world. Even before India became chairperson of the non-aligned movement it always tries to voice the feelings of other countries. Mexico had also done that and until recently it was chairman of the "group of 77."

"Mexico and India have worked closely together to make the world safe from the dangers of a nuclear holocaust. Earlier this year, President De La Madrid joined me and the heads of government of Argentina, Greece, Sweden and Tanzania in a fervent appeal for nuclear disarmament. This initiative has been welcomed by some governments and groups of parliamentarians and other citizens of many countries."

Mrs Gandhi said that world peace and co-operation were not merely distant ideals. "It is a question of practical necessity. Without them we cannot concentrate on improving the living conditions of our people. We both need a world which is more relaxed, has greater equality and justice."

Q. Which are the main problems, the movement of non-aligned countries of which you are the chairperson, is facing and how they could be solved specially when there are greater imperialist and neo-colonialist interventions?

Mrs Gandhi: There is persistent pressure on non-aligned countries, and moves to divide them and involve them in local and global confrontations. There is overt and covert intervention. Many countries are lured with advanced military weaponry far beyond their actual defence requirement and this on terms which increase their dependence. Those who are pliable also get greater economic help. Those who wish to remain independent are denied their due.

Asked how India reacted to political intervention of other states in the internal matters of a sovereign country, the Prime Minister said, "We are totally opposed to any such interference from any country, far or near. We have consistently told our own immediate neighbours that we have no intention whatsoever to intervene in their internal affairs."

Agricultural Ties

India plans to exchange expertise in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables with Mexico, Mrs Gandhi said.

The Prime Minister said that agricultural research would long remain a priority area of co-operation between the two countries.

Mrs Gandhi acknowledged that Mexico's experiments in evolving high-yielding varieties of wheat and maize had greatly helped India to increase its grain production to the present level of 151 million tonnes.

"Materials developed by crossing Mexican and Indian wheat have produced a number of commercial varieties," she said, and noted that the recent winter and spring wheat crosses developed in Mexico were also quite promising.

CSO: 4600/1124

RAJIV ADDRESSES PUBLIC MEETING IN SILIGURI

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1, 9

[Article by Chinmoy Thakurta]

[Text] Siliguri, Oct 28—Mr Rajiv Gandhi, AICC(I) general secretary, criticized the Opposition parties, including the CPI(M), and blamed them for retarding the progress of the country. Addressing a public meeting at Bagha Jatin Park here today, Mr Gandhi said West Bengal had not been able to show any creditable performance under the Left Front Government, while the other States were going ahead in with development plans.

Mr Gandhi's 20-minute speech in Hindi was, for the most part, an attack on the Opposition and its "negative" attitude towards the country's unity and development. He urged the people of West Bengal to ponder over what the CPI(M)-led Left Front had given them during the past seven years.

Plane

Mr Gandhi arrived at Bagdogra airport around 11 am. by a small special aircraft from Madhya Pradesh. Two Union Ministers, Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, received him at the airport. Mr Mukherjee had come from Delhi by an Indian Airlines plane few minutes before Mr Gandhi's arrival.

All the important State Congress (I) leaders were present at the airport from where Mr Gandhi was taken in a motorcade to the venue of the public meeting. He was given warm welcome at four places on the way. The two Union Ministers accompanied Mr Gandhi throughout. Mr Gandhi travelled in a red limousine.

The other leaders who accompanied him were Mr Ananda Gopal Mukherjee, WBPCC (I) president, Mr Gopal Das Nag, WBPCC (I) general secretary, Mr Ashok Sen, M.P., Mr P.P. Rai, president, Darjeeling District Congress (I) Committee, Mr Somen Mitra, MLA, Mr Subrata Mukherjee, MLA and Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi.

Capacity

Long before Mr Gandhi arrived at Bagha Jatin Park, it was packed to capacity with about 30,000 people. Criticizing the Left Front Government, Mr Gandhi said the people of the State should know better what the State Government was doing for them.

The State, he alleged, lagged behind others in all spheres. "How long are we to accept such a situation when the country as a whole is progressing?" he asked. The gap between the promises and the performance of the Left Front Government was ever-widening, he remarked.

Under Congress rule, West Bengal had performed impressively in many sectors which was not evident now. Mr Gandhi accused the Opposition of hobnobbing with divisive and terrorist forces to achieve their own political ends.

He alleged that the Opposition had come to a secret understanding with the Akalis on the Anandapur Sahib resolution, which the Congress (I) had refused to discuss because it was intended to disintegrate the country. They also had links with anti-national elements in Assam Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Development

Mr Gandhi claimed that India had surpassed advanced countries like the USA and the U.K. in some sectors of economic development during the past four years. He said further progress was possible only under the Congress (I) and Mrs Gandhi. He said while democracy had crumbled in many neighbouring countries, it survived in India as the Congress (I) had always worked to strengthen the system.

Mr Ghani Khan Chowdhury said that if the Congress (I) could capture 25 to 30 Lak Sabha seats in West Bengal, people would get an opportunity to dislodge the Left Front Government.

Mr Pranab Mukherjee denied the charge against the Centre that Delhi was not cooperating with the Left Front Government in development resources. Quoting statistics he said that the Centre had given enough financial assistance to the State. It was now for the people to ask the Left Front Government how it had spent this amount.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said in Malda today that the arguments put forward by the votaries of the presidential form of Government were not convincing enough, adds UNI. The objectives they were seeking could be achieved by making some changes in the existing system itself, he said.

However, Mr Gandhi told reporters aboard his train at Kishanganj at the end of the first day's tour of North Bengal that he did not mind a debate on the issue. Asked whether a debate on the issue was proper at a time when the general elections were approaching, Mr Gandhi said there was nothing wrong about it.

Mr Gandhi said his party's election prospects were not as bleak as was sought to be projected. When his attention was drawn to internal quarrels in the party's different State units, he said: "Internal differences existed in the party even when Gandhiji was at the helm of affairs." But such differences never jeopardized the party's electoral prospects. He said his party was not getting upset over the attempts by the Opposition to unite.

Despite all bickerings, the Congress (I) continued to have the best image among all the parties in the country. The Congress (I) would fare better even in States under non-Congress (I) Governments, including the Marxists.

Asked about the West Bengal Chief Minister's reported statement that the Congress (I) might get about 10 seats only in the State, Mr Gandhi said it was an understatement. "We do expect to do even better." The party's prospects in the South also were better.

CSO: 4600/1125

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON GANDHI ASSASSINATION

PATRIOT Editorial Article

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial by R.K. Mishra]

[Text]

It seems that at least one Western radio network has already concluded that our country is in the throes of a civil war. An internal conflict in India no doubt will please India's enemies, and the radio report doubtless reveals imperialism's sinister design. It is now clear that Indira Gandhi's assassination was only the first step of a well-laid conspiracy. The wide-spread and well-organised violence that has rocked the Capital and scores of other cities in the country is not a spontaneous explosion of pent-up grievances against a community. Violence has been planned to unleash chaos at a time when the country is yet to recover from the stinging blow of the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Anti-social elements, communalists and political opportunists are on the rampage. When millions of men and women are mourning the death of Indira Gandhi, these elements have pressed into service hardened criminals, young hooligans and misguided youths to further the design of the assassins and their foreign patrons. The latter want an eruption of unmanageable disorder in the country. All patriotic and sensible Indians know that maintaining peace and harmony is their paramount duty at this juncture. Only those who have ulterior designs will want to stoke the fire of communal bitterness. It is these elements who have started a campaign of arson and loot, assault and attacks on innocent citizens. They raise cries of "blood for blood", to avenge Indira Gandhi's death. But they cannot possibly be true to her memory. Spreading chaos and communal venom is an offence to all Indira Gandhi stood for in life.

Indira Gandhi's assassins were Sikhs only in name. In truth they did not belong to any faith in the same way as Mahatma Gandhi's assassin was not a true Hindu. They and their ilk are murderers. Indira Gandhi's killers were tools used by India's enemies to trigger off a chain reaction. The assassination could have stimulated introspection amongst the common Sikhs. Only India's enemies want Sikhs to be alienated from other Indians. The process of this alienation was started by terrorists in Punjab. Now gangs of criminals are going about assaulting, attacking and killing innocent Sikhs. Those who are perpetrating these atrocities are acting as tools of the enemies of this country. They may feign anger at those who raise the slogan of Khalistan. In reality, those who attack innocent Sikhs are accomplices of the "Khalistani" terrorists.

The army has been called in. Shoot-at-sight orders have been issued. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has asked all government agencies to put down the marauders and killers with a heavy hand. But we cannot leave the responsibility of fighting the forces of chaos only to the State apparatus. Every patriotic Indian must act to defend India's unity. Leaders of all political parties have appealed to stop the madness raging in the country.

Let there be no mistake. It is a major battle in which the nation is engaged. At this time every single soldier in our armed forces is needed to man the border. Across it the enemy is training its guns and marshalling its tanks. Within the country, the battle should be fought by the citizen. At this moment, every Indian's task is clear and straight forward. Protect every single unoffending Sikh from attacks by communal gangsters and criminals who appear to be acting at the behest of India's enemies. Defend the life and property of your Sikh neighbour, of any Sikh who may be threatened. This responsibility has to be undertaken in every mohalla, town and village.

This is the time when all patriotic and secular forces should come together. Joint committees for protection of Sikhs must be formed and vigilance squads formed to apprehend the culprits. The demon of communalism must be destroyed and peace restored immediately. Only then can we save India.

Assassination 'Betrayal of Legacy'

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Nov 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] The fatal attack on the Prime Minister tragically reveals the extent to which public life in India has degenerated. Every right-thinking Indian readily shared this newspaper's fervent hope that Mrs Gandhi would speedily recover from the savage injuries she suffered; not only because it is abominably cruel for a long and distinguished career to end at the hands of an assassin, but also because of the political and other implications of such a foul deed. It may be true of Mrs Gandhi, as of all other leaders who have to bear her onerous responsibilities, that she has made many enemies through some of her policy decisions. This may apply with especial force to the Union Government's recent actions in relation to Punjab where militant followers of the late Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale are still continuing with their reckless campaign of violence and terror. But India is still a democratic society where legal and constitutional forums are available for the redress of all grievances. Those who ignore these channels to take the law into their own hands place themselves beyond the law and, no matter how justified their complaints, at once lose all claim on the nation's compassion.

It may be premature to speculate on the identity of the assailant or assailants, and there is certainly no need to waste the least thought on their grievances. Nor are Mrs Gandhi's many errors of judgment at all relevant in this moment of shock and grief. What cannot but cause the deepest anguish throughout the country is that the Prime Minister of India should die because 37 years of parliamentary democracy notwithstanding, there are still people amongst us who look to the bullet instead of the ballot box for the solution of their problems. The irony is that with Lok Sabha elections just around the corner, legitimate critics were assured of a respectable means of removing

Mrs Gandhi and the Congress (I) from power. Wednesday's brutal pre-empting of that opportunity can only mean that the men behind the gun have no respect for, or expectations from, the electoral process. To that extent, the culprits repudiate civilized norms, preferring the rough and ready law of the jungle.

It is no irreverence to Mahatma Gandhi to suggest that not since his assassination has India faced such peril. Others have fallen prey to murderers since then, and L.N. Mishra's death in Bihar will be recalled in this context; more recently a Calcutta police officer and his security guard were hacked to death in the course of duty while a man suspected of complicity in the crime was subsequently killed in police custody. Each outrage marked another milestone on the road to anarchy; each crime confirmed that an increasing number of Indians were prepared to turn their backs on the norms of decency that alone can sustain a society in which everyone can live in peace and security. That this tide of violence has now reached out to the highest in the land only further reveals the danger that threatens to engulf us. True, assassination attempts are not confined to India; even in Britain--seen by many as the world's most stable country--the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, recently miraculously escaped an IRA bomb. But India's political conventions are less firmly entrenched and, though Mr Rajiv Gandhi has been sworn in, a smooth continuation of the machinery of governance is not necessarily assured; such crimes are, therefore, bound to take a far heavier toll of public life in this country.

These are considerations for the long term when we may also have to reassess our pride in being one of the very few Asian nations to sustain orderly change through so many years. For the enormity committed in New Delhi on Wednesday morning clearly indicates a total betrayal of the legacy bequeathed to us by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru; the grim implications of this rejection must not be overlooked. For the time being, however, all thought must centre on the tragedy of an indomitable woman who led the country with courage and determination for nearly two decades. Mrs Gandhi's political adversaries have long looked on her as indestructible; it is the nation's loss that she did not prove to be so.

Speculation on India's Future

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Nov 84 p 6

[Article by Sunanda K. Datta-Ray]

[Text] Mrs Gandhi's murder dramatically reveals how near India is to the brink. There will always be people ready to say that the dark forces that brought her down were largely of her own creation; that the country would never have come to this pass if political life had not increasingly come to rely on all manner of nefarious methods, often including the uninhibited use of violence.

But this is no time for recrimination, and criticism of the dead will lead us nowhere. It would be churlish not to recognize that Mrs Gandhi gave

this country a sense of pride based as much on astute diplomacy and the strength of arms as on solid advances in agriculture, science and technology. In the eyes of the world, India was indistinguishable from the style and personal prestige of its Prime Minister. The failures that no realistic assessment can overlook have now been heavily atoned for; the feelings of shock and grief with which we received the news are described in another column. What bears pondering now is what the deed reveals of the national character and of the direction in which India seems to be heading. It is also necessary to consider the immediate and long-term political implications of a shattering outrage.

For the situation that prevails today bears no comparison with conditions after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru or of Lal Bahadur Shastri. The end was not unexpected in the former case, and there were several hats in the ring even while Nehru was still alive. There was also a robust party in power, a reasonably confident civil service in charge of the actual governance, and an Army that quite clearly did not see itself as anything more than an aid to civil power, entirely at the disposal of the political and bureaucratic establishments. Shastri's tenure in office was far too short to allow any of these institutions to decline too much; in any case, the party caucus held all the strings at the time of his death and was easily able to enforce its will and effect a smooth transition.

End of an Era

In spite of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's prompt appointment, things are vastly changed now. Mrs Gandhi's death marks the end of an era. The last few years have seen the virtual destruction of the Congress (I); its plight in West Bengal might be the most perilous, but nowhere else does it any longer boasts the inherent strength to cope with crises, take crucial decisions and evolve its own leadership. Men who are chosen mainly for their lack of consequence if not worse, and retained only because of their ready obedience to orders, are not best equipped to come to grips with emergencies. The party organization is in a shambles throughout the country, and many of those who hold office as Chief Minister do so by grace and favour, not because they boast a local base or command the respect of their colleagues.

Never to be faulted for her instinct, Mrs Gandhi foresaw the problems that this deterioration might lead to. It explained why while most people thought she was trying to replace the Westminster model with a presidential form of government, her real intention was to amend the Constitution that the Prime Minister would be nationally elected to the office. The contemplated innovation was a measure of Mrs Gandhi's contempt for her party and of her shrewd assessment of its chances at the hustings. It would have freed her—and her successors—from the embarrassment of having to depend on a rag tag and bob tail crew of Congress (I) politicians who might or might not have been returned to the Lok Sabha. Such a revision would also have allowed the Prime Minister to campaign for re-election only on the basis of personal appeal, charisma and the strength of achievements. Not even her worst critics will deny that Mrs Gandhi could easily triumph over all potential rivals in a national popularity test held on this basis.

But death came too soon, throwing the ball back into the court of those whom Mrs Gandhi obviously despised and wished to dispense with. Whether they still retain enough resilience to rise to the occasion must be in considerable doubt; it also seems safe to prophesy that the solution of the moment may not necessarily be the lasting one. Too many people have been deprived of a legitimate share of authority for far too long to accept the Cabinet's nomination with equanimity; the removal of the only authority that was feared and obeyed will inevitably spark off a struggle for power that is unlikely to be restrained by constitutional conventions or political norms. Both have been ignored so long that it might be difficult for an inexperienced young Prime Minister to reassert them.

Power Struggle

The expected free-for-all might have mattered less if, as in France before De Gaulle, the machinery of governance had been in smooth working order. But the administration has not only also been corrupted by political interference, it is sadly run down too. The Army would not so repeatedly have been called in if it were not India's most efficient surviving institution; but the perils of relying on military force to solve political problems are too obvious to need reiteration. It may even be argued that Mrs Gandhi might have been alive today but for the military operation in Amritsar.

Nor does this exhaust the list of possible dangers. The immediate reaction to the disclosure of the identity of Mrs Gandhi's assailants revealed how fragile is India's ethnic and cultural integrity. Mob passions are easily aroused, perhaps more easily in this country than in many others. But those who so recklessly singled out Sikhs and their places of worship for attack on Wednesday afternoon should remember that it was mindless communalism that necessitated Operation Bluestar in the first place; by retaliating in kind we will only harden community barriers and destroy the cause for which Mrs Gandhi may be said to have given her life. The "healing touch" of which she spoke so often was never more desperately needed than now; only a spirit of forgiveness, and the understanding that no community can collectively be held responsible for the crimes of an isolated few can re-establish the harmony without which India cannot willingly be held together. This too, was a point that Mrs Gandhi never tired of stressing; not once did she blame Sikhs in general for the terrorism of Bhindranwale's murder squads, and it would be the height of folly for misguided people to assume that her death can be avenged by flouting the principles that she abided by.

It has to be realized that national integration is not just an empty cliche mouthed by politicians. The concept demands the subordination of group loyalties to a non-denominational Indian identity. It is especially imperative that this should be recognized in times of stress so that individual guilt does not lead to insensate reprisals against innocent and unoffending people.

By extension, the murder might also lead to strains in India's relations with Pakistan. Rightly or wrongly, many people in this country have been persuaded of Pakistani encouragement of the "Khalistan" secessionists. Only last week we were also officially regaled with details of what looked like a sinister Pakistani conspiracy to "eliminate" important Indian political leaders. It implies no disrespect for the dead to stress now that such allegations and innuendoes are part of the diplomatic armoury of the two neighbours, and deserve to be treated with considerable circumspection. It just happened that Mrs Gandhi fell prey to an assassin's bullet shortly after the charge had been re-affirmed; but there was an equal chance that this might not have happened, for the accusation would doubtless have been made--irrespective of substance--in the run-up to elections.

That exercise has now assumed an even greater relevance than before. Indeed, it might be argued that earlier polling might have spared Mrs Gandhi such a cruel fate, for it would have afforded an opportunity to her opponents to canvass their point of view and to remove her from power through legitimate means. By appearing to drag her feet on the question of elections and by giving the impression that she was bent on securing her son's succession, Mrs Gandhi may have helped to convince some people that her position and policies were immutable. Violent change occurs only in those societies where legitimate avenues for redress are abitrary closed.

Hope of Change

That is not the case with India. It was not so while Mrs Gandhi was alive and it is not so now. But Wednesday's murder has given warning of the kind of enormities we might have to live with if people have reason to fear that a single person or family is in permanent command; also, if India's disgracefully intriguing Opposition leaders continue to demonstrate their inability ever to provide a viable national alternative. Hope of free democratic choice and faith in the Opposition's capacity to take over might have helped to avert the tragedy. A firm reaffirmation of both can yet prevent worse chaos and arrest the drift to bloodshed and anarchy.

This is the sombre task that has devolved on Mrs Gandhi's son and heir as well as on her political opponents. The former must ensure that the election timetable under the existing Constitution is strictly adhered to; the Opposition parties alone can convince Indians that we need not reject the ballot box for bullets in order to bring about a change in government or a review of policy.

Mrs Gandhi will not have died in vain if a realization of these responsibilities results--as it still can--in nourishing the roots of democracy. Timely elections, free and fair, with a united Opposition giving the Congress (I) a run for its money would be the most effective retort to those cowardly gunmen who believe they can terrorize a nation, destroy its most cherished values and demolish its proudest institutions by killing its Prime Minister. As Mrs Gandhi herself said after the Punjab crisis, "India will survive. India always finds its feet."

Statement by Menaka Gandhi

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Nov 84 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31--Menaka Gandhi, president of the Rashtriya Sanjay Manch, has condemned the assassination of Mrs Gandhi, reports PTI.

In a brief statement, she said what had happened today was to be condemned by all those who love India and cherish its spirit of peace.

"Apart from a sense of personal anguish that I feel, I am sure that the people of India will join me in condemning this frightening violence," she said.

Opposition Leaders' Concern

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Nov 84 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1--In a joint statement issued here today, senior Opposition leaders expressed their concern over the growing acts of violence, including arson, following the murder of Mrs Gandhi.

Mr Charan Singh, Mr Chandra Shekbar, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr Farooq Abdullah, Mr Chandrajit Yadav and Mr Sharad Pawar have, in the statement, said: "Reports of senseless violence against innocent people are coming in from different parts of the country. The capital itself is witnessing acts of killing, looting, arson which the Delhi Administration seems unable to prevent."

"The present," the statement continues, "is a dangerous moment in the life of our country. Anything that disturbs the unity of the country and creates further bad blood between communities should be prevented with determination by every patriotic Indian."

The leaders have appealed to the people to maintain calm and do everything in their power to put down forces of violence and disruption. "We urge the Government not to remain a silent spectator to the deteriorating situation, particularly in the capital. The Army must be called out at once and the life and property of citizens must be protected at any cost," the leaders have said.

In a separate statement, Mrs Menaka Gandhi, president of the Rashtriya Sanjay Manch, while describing the death of Mrs Gandhi as a national tragedy, has regretted that innocent citizens were being penalized for an act which appalled them as much as the rest of the nation. "The rioting which had broken out in various parts of the country would destroy not one community but the entire nation."

The Manch leader said Mrs Gandhi would have been the last person to approve of this violence being done in her name. "I appeal to all Congressmen in the name of Mrs Gandhi and my late husband, Sanjay Gandhi, not to let their resentment get the better of their judgment as this result in the destruction of all the values which we stand for."

CPI Statement

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Nov 84 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1--The central secretariat of the CPI has said that the assassins of Mrs Gandhi evidently acted as the tools of anti-national and dark forces operating inside the country.

A statement says that the death of Mrs Gandhi is an irreparable loss at a time when the country is facing a serious external threat from the USA and from internal chauvanish, communal and separatist forces directed against its unity and security.

Her assassination is a grim warning to the people that black forces of terrorism and murder politics have entered the political scene and are out to destroy the unity and integrity of the country and create chaos. The void created by Mrs Gandhi's passing away is likely to be utilized by the USA and internal forces of communalism and separatism. In such a situation there is urgent need for unity among patriotic and secular democratic forces on the question of safeguarding the country's unity and integrity, the statement has said.

CSO: 4600/1127

INDIA

OPPOSITION, OTHERS COMMENT ON RAJIV APPOINTMENT

Charan Singh, BJP, Others

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Nov 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1--Mr Charan Singh has, with the BJP, taken exception to the manner in which Mr Rajiv Gandhi was made Prime Minister. But unlike the BJP, which put its objection on record in the form of a formal resolution, Mr Charan Singh led a delegation, including party M.P.s, to President Zail Singh.

The common point made by both Mr Charan Singh and the BJP is that the No 2 man in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet should have been named the interim Prime Minister till such time as the ruling party's parliamentary wing had met and elected a new leader in place of Mrs Gandhi. It was for the parliamentary party to decide who its leader should be, they have pointed out.

(PTI adds: Mr Charan Singh told the President that the installation of Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister was "unconstitutional and against the established convention." The delegation also told Mr Zail Singh that the present Cabinet of Mr Rajiv Gandhi was "illegal" because portfolios had not been allotted to the Ministers. Mr Charan Singh also said that the selection of Mr Rajiv Gandhi confirmed the apprehension of the people that "democracy is being gradually eroded in the country to establish a dynastic rule."

The DMKP general secretary, Mr S.P. Malaviya, said the delegation had impressed upon the President that the country should have been taken into confidence before any such decision was made by consulting the Opposition Parties. The delegation also stated that on the two previous occasions in which Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri died, Mr G.L. Nanda, then Home Minister, had been administered the oath of office as acting Prime Minister. In the present case, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was an "outsider," it said.)

A meeting of the DMKP took stock of the violent situation developing in various parts of the country and charged certain anti-social elements with having "deliberately perpetrated hatred against Sikhs generally." A meeting attended by senior party leaders called upon DMKP workers throughout the country to remain vigilant and combat with all the power at their command the "divisive anti-social" elements so that peace and communal amity were maintained.

The party president also wrote a letter to the Cabinet Secretary, Krishna-swamy Rao Saheb, asking him to enforce law and order strictly throughout the country. A copy of the letter has been sent to the Home Secretary, Mr M.M.K. Wali. The resolution adopted at the meeting presided over by Mr Charan Singh charged the Delhi Police and the Delhi Administration with "total failure" in controlling the widespread loot and arson.

UNI adds: Mr Charan Singh today appealed to "all political parties and all sections of the society" to prevent the country from "sliding into the path of violence and terror."

Commenting on the reports of violence received from various parts of the country, he said the systematic and organized attacks were a matter of shame for the whole nation. The fact that the administration had remained a silent spectator had further vitiated the atmosphere, he added.

In his letter to Mr Krishnaswamy and Mr Wali, Mr Charan Singh said: "Unless effective measures are immediately set in motion to curb the violence and protect the life and property of citizens, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to control the situation later."

The national executive of the BJP, which met this morning, has meanwhile, expressed profound shock at the assassination of Mrs Gandhi. The meeting passed two other resolutions, one on the outbreak of violence in the capital and the other criticizing the installation of Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister.

In the resolution on Mrs Gandhi's assassination, the national executive expressed a sense of utter shock and profound sorrow over the murder of the Prime Minister. Violence could have no place in politics and certainly not in democratic politics. "We had many political differences with Mrs Gandhi. But we must say she was a remarkable person who took many bold decisions. On this tragic occasion, the BJP offers its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prays for peace to the departed soul."

On Mr Rajiv Gandhi's appointment, the resolution said: "The BJP regrets that in deciding about the immediate successor to Mrs Gandhi the ruling party has disregarded both propriety and precedent. In independent India two Prime Ministers have died in office (prior to Mrs Gandhi's death). On both occasions, the seniormost Minister was sworn in as interim Prime Minister. On both occasions, after a few days, the new leader elected by the ruling parliamentary party was inducted into office as Prime Minister."

"In the present case, too, a senior Minister should have been sworn in as interim Prime Minister. Instead, the late Prime Minister's son was sworn in as Prime Minister. The proceeding goes counter to parliamentary principles and practices and only betrays the ruling party's (faith in) dynastic rule," the BJP resolution said.

Left Front Comment

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Left Front leaders are generally happy at the choice of Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister by the Congress (I) leadership. They feel that Mr Gandhi will continue his mother's foreign policy.

"It is a mature decision," a Front leader, who wanted to remain anonymous, said in Calcutta on Thursday. Mr Gandhi, he admitted, was the symbol of national unity.

Asked if it was not a volte face for the Leftists, he said Mrs Gandhi's assassination had given the Indian political scene a new dimension. It might open up the process of Right consolidation and stifle the rising voices of Left forces. The criticism of dynastic rule, about which the Leftists were once vociferous, is not thus likely to be repeated after this tragic incident."

Another Front leader said that although the assassins were Sikhs, the adroit planning behind the foul deed committed inside the Prime Minister's house clearly showed the presence of "a foreign agency" behind this tragic incident.

He also admitted that the Congress (I) leadership might sway even the Hindi heartland of India if they could "cash" on the people's anguish at Mrs Gandhi's assassination in its favour in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

The Left Front, at its meeting on Thursday, regretted that some anti-social elements were trying to take advantage of the people's sorrow over the assassination and were out to upset life in the State.

The State (CPI(M) secretary, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, said Mrs Gandhi had been assassinated by "terrorists backed by American imperialists." All sections of the people should mourn her death in a dignified manner. He regretted that some criminals were putting up road blocks and attacking members of a particular community. One could not pay homage to Mrs Gandhi's memory by resorting to such violence.

Support from PATRIOT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Last night Rajiv Gandhi addressed the nation. This was more than the first broadcast of a new Prime Minister. His was the voice of young India: India of the future. Dignified and composed. "She was mother not only to me, but the whole nation", Rajiv said. These were simple words but the emotions they conveyed were deep and stirring. They touched the hearts of countrymen and women. He was in control of himself and wasted no time in underlining the most important task before the people: preserve communal harmony and do not let emotions get the better of you. Here was the young leader, bereaved and in anguish, in complete command of himself. And that is why his fervent appeal for peace will strike a responsive chord. Congress(I) party has done the nation a signal service by selecting Rajiv Gandhi as its new leader. Any other choice at this critical juncture would not have been in the interest of the country. Rajiv Gandhi's appointment as the new Prime Minister is the first concrete step to foil the sinister designs of India's enemies. Those who had planned to create confusion during the void created by Indira Gandhi's assassination have been administered a rebuff. India is not without a leader and India cannot be pushed away from the path she has charted for herself.

But this is only the beginning of a new phase in our battle to safeguard the independence, unity and integrity of our country. This is only the first step in our renewed fight against imperialism's diabolical conspiracy against India. Let us not forget that those who conspired to kill Indira Gandhi have also worked out their future plans. The battle must now be waged to frustrate these plans. Indian people must fully grasp the nature of forces which committed the dastardly crime of hatching a plot to assassinate Indira Gandhi. They must understand the reason why removal of Indira Gandhi was so desperately wanted by fissiparous and divisive forces within the country and their patrons outside. Only such an understanding will enable them to acquire the insight and the necessary strength to defeat these conspirators. Indira Gandhi became the target of these evil forces because she would never mortgage India's independence. Imperialism was hell-bent to remove Indira Gandhi from the scene because she was unflinching in her opposition to neo-imperialist machinations, unwavering in her support to national liberation struggles, dogged in her opposition to war and consistent in her policy of peace. Indira Gandhi was thus a tower of strength for the struggles of all the oppressed peoples. She had, therefore, to be removed. Indira Gandhi was friend of the forces of progress and socialism all over the world. Reactionaries and enemies of socialism, therefore, had to strike and remove her from the scene. In the global struggle for economic justice, equality and fairplay, Indira Gandhi had given a remarkable leadership to the have-not nations. Those who derive their affluence from the exploitation of poor nations wanted to remove her from the scene. In 1977, they had hoped she had been politically liquidated for ever. In 1980, the Indian people administered them a rebuff. Their hope that one electoral reverse will make

Indira Gandhi a pliable tool was dashed to the ground when, after her return at the helm she stuck to her convictions. Her principled positions made them angry and vengeful. If India could be deprived of Indira Gandhi's leadership by electoral means our enemies would have waited for a few months. But it became clearer with every passing day that was not likely to happen and this realisation made them desperate. If India had continued for another five years to move on her charted course under Indira Gandhi's leadership, the country would have become a force to reckon with. An economically developed and politically united and strong India was potentially a threat to imperialism's sinister global game plan. Hence the deadly dastardly attack against Indira Gandhi, against India.

It is now necessary to defeat this game. The country can do so by persisting in the course she has charted, by following unflinchingly the policies India has pursued so far. To do so, Rajiv Gandhi needs the nation's support. He needs the support of all those who are not conscious or unconscious tools of imperialism and reaction. If the people's response so far is any guide, Rajiv Gandhi will get in this task the nation's support in abundant measure. The challenges facing the country are not an individual's responsibility. These are not party tasks, these are national tasks. In historical struggles, nations and peoples enter phases when an individual becomes a critical element in determining the course of events. In today's situation Rajiv Gandhi has become that single factor in this nation's struggle to assert its independence and safeguard its integrity. The enemy is watching closely, assessing if this is the time for a further strike. To defeat India's enemies, to frustrate imperialist designs, all patriotic men and women will stand with Rajiv Gandhi.

CSO: 4600/1128

REPORT ON PRESIDENT SINGH'S VISIT TO YAR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Nov 84 p 5

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 1--India and the Yemen Arab Republic have called for all out efforts by the Non-Aligned nations to bring about an immediate "just and peaceful" end to the Iran-Iraq war, which is threatening world peace, reports UNI.

In the official talks between the visiting Indian President, Mr Zail Singh, and the Yemeni President, Mr Ali Abdullah Saleh here, the two sides noted that the conflict had resulted in incalculable loss.

Expressing concern over the heightening tension and hostilities in different regions of the world and deepening global economic crisis, the two Presidents stressed the need for strengthening the unity and solidarity of the Non-Aligned movement so that it could play an effective role in resolving various problems.

The Palestinian problem, the Lebanon situation, the current situation in the Indian Ocean and South-South cooperation figured prominently in the talks between the two leaders.

In the talks spread over two days, both Presidents were aided by high-level teams. Mr Zail Singh was assisted by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim, the President's Secretary, Mr A.C. Bandapadhyay, and the Secretary (Economic Relations) Mr Romesh Bhandari.

The Yemeni President was assisted by the Prime Minister, Mr Abdulazia Abdulghani.

Cooperation

India will depute irrigation engineers, telecommunication experts and cotton pest control specialists to North Yemen under an expanded programme of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Exchanges in economic, scientific, technical, agricultural, cultural, educational, health and information fields will get a new thrust following the official talks here between the two leaders.

The Indian side agreed to provide training facilities to Yemen in a large number of disciplines. Particular attention would be paid to cooperation in the agricultural sector.

As a first step a Yemeni delegation will visit India to acquaint itself with Indian expertise in this sector, and an Indian delegation will visit the Yemen Arab Republic to provide advice on agricultural development in this country.

It was also agreed that meetings of the joint commission for economic and technical cooperation would be held periodically in Sanaa and New Delhi.

CSO: 4600/1129

OIL MINISTER CLAIMS REDUCED PRODUCTION TO PRESERVE OPEC

Tehran BURS in Persian 30 Sep 84 p 5

[Interview with Gharazi, minister of petroleum, date and place not specified]

[Text] The minister of petroleum said: Perhaps the world's technocrats cannot accept the fact that a country is able to produce oil while a large-scale war has been imposed upon it. However, no one in the world acquainted with the Iranian war can fail to accept that Iran has produced and exported oil under the hail of the enemy's bullets. According to Gharazi, during the war the Islamic Republic of Iran's ministry of petroleum has had 200 martyrs yet has managed production, export, drilling, transport and other related matters. He added: While the enemy's bullets rained upon our heads, we brought two burning, leaking oil wells in the Persian Gulf under control, and also straightened up the state of the Abadan Refinery, saving much of its equipment from the fire. As the interview continued, the minister of petroleum stated: In light of the fact that we have learned to produce oil under wartime conditions, I can announce today that we plan to produce oil in the large oil-bearing, militarized region [of Kheybar]. He added: We have prepared the equipment and resources necessary to drain the Al-Hovizeh Lake. With God's help, we will be able to start producing oil from Majnun Island, God willing, by draining the Al-Hovizeh Lake.

He announced that during the war the ministry of petroleum's drilling had increased three times, that the level of refining had risen 50 percent, and that the war's continuation would lead to our country's even greater victory.

Asked if Iraq's military aggression had caused Iran's decision to reduce oil production by 50 percent, the minister of petroleum said: Iran has never ordered its oil production due to military pressure. Iran's announcement that it was reducing oil production was due solely to market pressure and to prevent a fall in oil price, and to protect and strengthen OPEC. Military issues had no effect whatsoever on the matter. Asked what percentage of Iran's oil is sold in barter deals, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that countries which buy oil from us must sell goods to us. They in turn should not expect that Iran will sell oil to

them and then import goods from another country with the currency they derive from the oil sale. To put it differently, we are continuing our relations from the oil-sale angle with various countries at the level of bilateral exchanges.

He added: We can have economic relations only with countries with whom we have reciprocal transactions. For example, if a company should refrain from buying Iranian oil, it is natural that Iran will adopt economic counter-measures against that company. He stressed: Iran will never sell its oil at a price less than OPEC's official price, and we will consider easements other than price reduction only for some third world countries.

Throughout the war the ministry of petroleum has learned how to produce and export oil under the hail of the enemy's bullets. When the Islamic Republic of Iran says that the enemy despairs of stopping Iranian oil production and export, it is making a logical statement concerning the war. Eng Gharazi stated these matters in a press conference with domestic and foreign correspondents.

In this conference, he explained the activities of the ministry of petroleum during the imposed war, the status of Iranian oil exports, the oil sale process, Iran's position in the upcoming OPEC meeting, and exploitation of the oil fields on Majnun Island.

At the beginning, regarding the goal of Iraq's attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The goal of Iraq's attack on Iran, particularly in regards to petroleum resources, was mainly to bring down the Islamic Republic of Iran by stopping oil production and refining. Although that regime first attacked Iran in the northern areas, it was evident from the beginning that it had concentrated most of its force in the south of our country. He added: The agenda given to Iraq was mainly that of capturing oil reserves, disabling petroleum facilities and factories, and preventing oil export. At this time the Abadan refinery was responsible for 60 percent of Iran's refining capacity. The nature of the affair is that when a broadscale, blitzkreig war can reduce a country's energy consumption by 40 percent and destroy 60 percent of its refining capacity, that country economic and war-making machinery will be destroyed. Iraq's goals in attacking southern Iran were not solely stopping Iranian oil production, but also preventing it from refining petroleum.

In regard to the state of oil exports from Khark Island, Gharazi pointed out that Iraq's aggressor regime so far has lost 41 airplanes over Khark and Bushehr, and stressed: Throughout four years of the imposed war, despite extreme military pressure, we have not cancelled a single contract with our customers. In fact it has not even happened that a ship has come to Khark to load and gone away empty. Although several times our oil reservoirs on Khark have caught fire due to Iraqi attacks, Khark's loading and export went on while this occurred.

He announced that what the ministry of petroleum has learned during the war is how to produce and export oil under the hail of the enemy's bullets.

IRAN

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTS 58 BILLION IN ISFAHAN INDUSTRIES

Tehran BURS in Persian 22 Oct 84 p8

[Text] Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, 1,200 agreements in principle, 261 establishment permits, and 83 operational permits have been issued for the production units of Esfahan Province.

The supervisor of the central office of industries of Esfahan Province in an interview with the IRNA correspondent announced that from the establishment of this office, during the period 21 March 1964-20 March 65, until before the victory of the revolution, 367 agreements in principle, 567 establishment permits, and 70 operational permits were issued by this office and said: After the victory of the Islamic revolution, with this number of agreements in principle and establishment permits, the grounds for the employment of 22,242 persons have been provided.

Pointing out that on the basis of the plans of this office, of 4,000 projects in various areas received by the end of this year, 300 will be issued agreements in principle. He said: This year, 2,000 files were eligible for the issuance of identification cards.

Stating that in the implementation of the project to establish a monthly production data system for the factories, 400 production units are now involved, the supervisor of the central office of industries of Esfahan Province said: Since the revolution, 700 vehicles have been distributed among these units, of which 200 were distributed this year. Pointing out that since the victory of the Islamic revolution, 39 industrial areas have been created in this Province, Engineer Talebi said: Some of them have reached their capacity in terms of the establishment of industries. Concerning raw materials and spare parts in the industries of the Province, the currency for raw materials and the parts for the units to be determined on the basis of kind, level of production, and capacity, he said: The large units have no problems in this regard. Only in the small units, and then in

regards to iron ware, are there certain shortages, which will be eliminated by the end of this year with the measures taken.

The supervisor of the central office of industries of Esfahan Province pointed out that about 500 incomplete industrial projects exist in various stages of construction or of machinery installations throughout the Province and said: The above-mentioned units will have an effective role in increasing production once they reach the stage of issuing the establishment permit.

In conclusion, pointing out that after the revolution the government invested a great deal in production industries in the Province, he said: The private sector has invested 58,872,000,000 rials since the victory of the revolution. Also during this period, the amounts of 42,952,000,000 rials in the area of agreements in principle and 15,919,000,000 rials with the issuance of permits have been invested.

10,000
CSO: 4640/ 127

MUSAVI: ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS SHOULD NOT GO UNPUNISHED

Tehran BURS in Persian 25 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] In his meeting with the heads of the primary review committees for administrative violations, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: If, God forbid, the bureaucratic system of our country should become corrupt, the Islamic Republic will face harsh problems. For this reason, the primary and revisory committees for administrative violations are extremely important in regards to evaluating government employees. In this meeting, first a report concerning the situation with regard to the committees and the level of activities was presented by Mr Razavi, the deputy prime minister for reconstruction affairs and secretary general of the organization for administrative and employment affairs of the country. Then, the prime minister pointed out that the Islamic revolution of Iran is a movement against all ungodly and unpopular regimes in the world and said: Our revolutionary movement is not a movement in the interest of the greed and policies which control, on the surface, the fate of the world; it is a movement in the opposite direction of such policies. For this reason, since the victory of the Islamic revolution, vast conspiracies have been designed by the superpowers, particularly the United States, which still continue. Mr Musavi considered the imposed war of Iraq on Iran, the Nuzheh coup d'etat plot, the Tabas incident, and the economic embargo different forms of this conspiracy. Mentioning the recent conspiracy of global oppression in regards to a return to tyrannical values, he said: Since every human being is a target of corruption, by creating numerous centers, such as those for anthropological studies and the training of orientalists, the United States is making an effort to penetrate our Islamic revolution and to weaken it from within. The documents of the spy nest confirm this view. Then, referring to the roots of administrative violations, the prime minister said: The escalation of administrative violations can have foreign roots. The expansion of corruption in the administrative offices is connected to international conspiracies. Precisely for this reason, the work of our brothers in evaluating and judging government employees is extremely important. If, God forbid, our

administrative system should become corrupt, the Islamic Republic will face harsh problems. Your Islamic duty in regards to all the martyrs and the oppressed, who are the founders and creators of our magnificent Islamic revolution, is to counter such violations decisively.

Stressing that we cannot and must not excuse administrative violations and crimes, the prime minister said: The work of the primary and revisory committee is so serious and important that it is tied to the fate of the Islamic revolution itself, and it is the right of our nation and the government to expect decisive action from the committees. He pointed out that if administrative violations and crimes were ordinary, personal violations and crimes, they could be excused and added: But, the beginnings of administrative corruption have international roots and are of public concern. Therefore, we must not allow personal feelings to influence them. Although this is very difficult, it must be known that it will be rewarded by God. Then pointing out that decisive dealing with the situation is part of the revolution, the prime minister expressed hope that with its decisive action, the judicial branch will encourage the authorities and those who work in the primary and revisory committees. Comparing the existing administrative corruption in ungodly regimes to that of the Islamic Republic, the prime minister added: The supervision of the authorities and the Hezbollah nation prevents us from having the problems and difficulties of other regimes in regard to administrative corruption. In conclusion, Mr Musavi considered the creation of uniform procedures in issuing administrative court rulings.

10,000
CSO: 4640/127

IRAN

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS, HIGH COST OF MEDICINE RISING

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] Dr Mansuri, director of the office for investigating medical documents of the Ministry of Health, took part in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN concerning the medical situation in Iran, the violations of some physicians and pharmacies, and new treatment regulations.

First, in connection with the medical situation, he said: At the present time, not only do we have a shortage of physicians throughout the country, but also, because of their disproportionate distribution, we are facing many problems.

He also said: Unfortunately, at the present time, more than 60 percent of the physicians in the country are concentrated in Tehran and more than 25 percent of them in the provincial capitals.

Also, in regards to the disproportionate distribution of physicians throughout the country, Dr Mansuri said: Unfortunately, this problem remains from the previous regime. For a fundamental solution to it, we must deal with the medical problem and the physicians culturally, economically, and socially in an essential and fundamental manner. He also said: Meanwhile, we must not condemn the physicians alone. Although there are those who ignore the humane dimensions of the issue, because of problems such as the war and its effects, alongside the small number of doctors, there are other committed persons who are in charge of the treatment services on the fronts and behind the fronts who have offered valuable services to the combatants and the Iranian people, which must be praised.

He added: But if the level of treatment services of the doctors becomes more extensive along with the number of physicians, the medical problems of the country will be resolved.

Also, in connection with the violations of some of the pharmacies, he said: Unfortunately, some of the pharmacies will not provide patients with the amount of medicine prescribed and also charge more than the prices determined for the medicine.

In connection with the reason for such violations, Dr Mansuri said: One of the factors which result in the occurrence of such violations is the manipulation of the price of medicine by pharmacies, because one item which is produced by several producers is sold at varying prices to pharmacies. This results in the difference in the prices of pharmacies.

He added: In order to eliminate this problem, the minimum price of similar drugs which are produced and distributed by various establishments must be the same.

He also said: Unfortunately, since the revolution, the number of violations of physicians has also increased due to a lack of clarification of new and decisive regulations with regard to various medical areas in the country and also the lack of a law on the basis of which violators can be questioned.

In connection with the lack of regulations in regards to regulations of medical services and their observation of the physicians, Dr Mansuri said: A law has been devised in this area, but because of certain problems, it does not conform to the realities of the society. Therefore, we have certain problems in this area and we must, with the cooperation and coordination of the whole of the medical profession, including headquarters, organizations, planning and executive organizations, reach a desired treatment situation.

In this connection, it is necessary that along with devising regulations to make the government hospitals active, we also expand the activities of private hospitals to reduce the medical inadequacies in the country.

10,000
CSO: 4640/113

IRAN

PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION, BY-PRODUCTS REPORTEDLY UP

Tehran BURS in Persian 7 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] At the present time, petroleum by-products in the country are being distributed at 110 million liters per day, which is an increase of 75 million liters per day over the period 21 March 1978-20 March 1979. Petroleum by-product reserves, particularly kerosene reserves were in a better situation during the first six months of this year compared to the periods 21 March 1982-20 March 1983 and 21 March 1983-20 March 1984; 85 percent of the reserves for the provincial cities and villages of the country for this year have been met. The daily consumption of gasoline during the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983 was about 16 million liters. In the first seven months of this year, this amount has increased to an average of 17 million liters. Engineer Hamdollah Mohammadnezhad, the director of the petroleum product distribution pipes and communications of the Ministry of Petroleum, announced these statements in a press conference and explained the level of the distribution of these products last year and other steps and duties of this office. Concerning the level of consumption and distribution of various petroleum by-products in the county, he said: During the periods 21 March 1981-20 March 1982 and 21 March 1982-20 March 1983, when gasoline was rationed, daily average consumption throughout the country amounted to 12 million liters. At the present time, this figure is about 16 million per day, and it is distributed freely. The distribution of kerosene as well has increased from about 16 million liters per day before the Islamic revolution to 23 million liters.

The level of daily consumption of diesel fuel in the country amounts to 39 million liters, of which 35 percent is used in the agricultural sector, 35 percent in transportation, 25 percent in the industrial sector and power stations, and 5 percent in homes for heating. The level of consumption before the Islamic revolution was 24 million liters per day. Also, the consumption of heating fuel, which is used mostly in power stations, smelting industries and public baths, amounts to 29 million liters per day.

He also said: At the present time, the capacity of the refineries in the country is 100 barrels per day, of which about 65,000-70,000 barrels are used for main products and the remainder is used as [illegible] petroleum.

Concerning the situation and level of distribution of various petroleum products this year in Tehran, the director of product distribution of the Ministry of Petroleum said: The total amount planned for the annual distribution of kerosene during the period 21 March 1984-20 March 1985 is about 8 billion liters, of which 23.5 billion liters have been distributed and the remainder, 4.5 billion liters, will be distributed in the next 5 months.

He added: The situation with regard to kerosene and diesel fuel reserves is at an appropriate level at the present time; 85 percent of the reserves, particularly in rural areas, have been met.

He said: Since the beginning of this year, certain programs have been carried out to provide the winter needs of inaccessible areas of the country with regard to petroleum product reserves, particularly kerosene. A major portion of their share is kept in the storage facilities of the national Iranian oil company in order to respond to the needs of all the areas of the country in winter.

Concerning the procedure to transport petroleum products in the country, he said: Various petroleum products are distributed by railroads and oil tankers. The level of production transportation through pipes since the Islamic revolution compared to the period 21 March 1977-20 March 1978 has increased by 2.5 times. Also, a daily average of 2.5 million liters, which is mostly furnace fuel for power stations, is transported by railroad, which indicates an increase of 1.5 times compared to before the revolution. Also, a large amount of these products are transported throughout the country by oil tankers, which are used in areas where we do not have railroads and pipe lines.

He mentioned the important pipe lines which are used in transporting petroleum products as follows: the 22-inch Shahrud-Mashhad line, the 18-inch Tehran-Esfahan line, the 10-inch Rey-Tabriz line, the 16-inch Rey-Sari line, and the 18-inch Esfahan line.

10,000
CSO: 4640/144

IRAN

COMMUNITY PLANNED FOR EMPLOYEES IN DAMAVAND

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Shemiran, KEYHAN correspondent. The governor of Damavand announced in an interview with the dispatched KEYHAN correspondent: Four hundred houses will be constructed for the employees of Damavand; 11 hectares of land have been allocated to this project. Also, all the employees of the city of Damavand will be covered by the organization for housing development.

In this interview, Seyyed Ja'far Mir Sana'i, governor of Damavand, said: Today, employees are among the most oppressed strata of the society; they are squeezed between two millstones. For this reason, with the assistance of the Office of the Governor General of Tehran, 11 hectares of land have been allocated for the construction of housing for the employees of this city. With the participation of the Saderat bank of Tehran, its first phase, involving 200 houses on 200 plots of land of 200 square meters, has begun. After the first phase is completed, the second phase, which also involves 200 houses, will begin. He added: In this housing complex, all urban facilities, such as green areas, supermarkets, markets, schools, and mosques, will be created.

The governor of Damavand added: In Damavand, there are 2,000 employees who will be affected by this housing production.

He continued: The first phase of the Damavand boulevard highway will be completed within one month and the second phase will begin in late spring of next year. Funding for this highway amounts to 400 million rials, which has been provided through the national plan.

He pointed out that an industrial town will be created in Damavand and that the Ministry of Industries, considering increased number of agreements in principle, must expedite its

work as much as possible in order for the units to begin their operations. In these industries, our aim is mostly related to agriculture, which must be developed.

The governor of Damavand then said: The Firuzkuh-Semnan road will be built by the end of this year at a cost of 118 million rials. Given the limitations on agriculture in this city, the villagers are forced to leave for Damavand and Tehran. If handicraft workshops for such crafts as carpet weaving, mat weaving, and traditional rural handicrafts and rural workshops are created, the farmers will be absorbed during those seasons when they are otherwise unemployed, which will prevent the migration of villagers to the cities.

Pointing out that the organization for tourism affiliated with the Ministry of Guidance issues permits to build motels, tea shops, and restaurants along the roads to this city without the agreement of the Office of the Governor and, as a result, the young villagers are absorbed by such centers, and that this is increasing every day, he asked the authorities of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and the organization for tourism to avoid issuing such permits and to cooperate with the Office of the Governor.

Damavand Has No Hospitals

Mirsana'i, the governor of Damavand, continued: This city lacks a hospital. It only has a clinic and a maternity ward. Given the investigations conducted, the health department of Tehran Province intends to establish a surgical unit in this center.

He considered the lack of means for long distance communication another problem in this city and said: We hope the communication authorities will act on their promises.

In conclusion, he recounted the creation of 70 educational units, 1 agricultural trade school, electricity outreach to 65 villages, 21 health baths in the villages, water outreach to 26 villages, and 25 schools throughout Damavand as among the developmental programs since the victory of the magnificent Islamic revolution.

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CSO: 4640/ 147

MONTAZERI URGES MAJLIS TO EXPEDITE LAND MANAGEMENT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Nov 84 p 26

[Text] Qom. Shar' magistrates, directors of seven-member committees, officials, and members of the central land distribution headquarters and its director, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel-Harandi, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and presented a brief report concerning the works of the committees in the past few years in regards to the amount of revitalized barren lands, their distribution to the villagers, and the services rendered throughout villages, as well as the problems concerning the existing lack of coordination among the seven-member committees, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other related organizations.

Then, referring to the efforts and activities of the sincere young people in this institution and the efforts of the scholars and committed clergy in identifying barren lands, voiding illegitimate and illegal deeds to such lands, and distributing them among the hardworking and productive villagers, he praised and thanked everyone and said: Usually, nothing is devoid of problems and imperfections; but the services and self-sacrifice of these sincere young people must be praised, as they deserve it.

Concerning the continuation of the work of the seven-member committees, considering the great expectations regarding them on the part of the villagers coupled with the lack of resources available to them, he said: If the government, the Supreme Judicial Council, and the Ministry of Agriculture pay attention to the problems of these committees and the expectations of the people and if the necessary coordination is created between them, the continuation of the work of the committees, which is the confiscation, revitalization, and distribution of religiously acknowledged barren lands, will serve the interests of the revolution. Otherwise, considering the lack of coordination and the lack of clear laws and regulations concerning their authority and the expectations of the villagers and the seven-member committees, I do not believe the continuation of the work of these committees is in our best interests, given the existing

lack of coordination. In any case, it is the duty of the Majlis to pay attention to and resolve the great problem of agricultural and barren lands.

Then, pointing out the legitimization of agriculture since the revolution and the methods for doing so, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: One of the problems regarding the agricultural land issue is the existent lack of coordination between forestry and agriculture. In many places, despite the fact that both belong to the same ministry, great conflicts and disharmony have resulted. Because there is no clear law, some problems have arisen in regards to agriculture, which we hope will soon be eliminated. Also, in many places, by establishing earthen dams, the problem of water shortages can be eliminated. Such dams will at least enrich underground water resources. He stressed: Thank God, compared to many other countries in the world, our country is rich and self-sufficient in regards to water and land. If we want to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency and become independent of needs from abroad, we have no other choice but to pay serious and practical attention to the issue of agriculture, revitalizing barren lands, and providing sufficient resources to the productive villagers. This will not be resolved by choosing exemplary farmers, giving them prizes, and other such propaganda actions.

We must do something to make our farmers truly motivated to remain in the villages and engage in farming. This can happen when they feel that farming and production is worthwhile for them and they can enjoy the necessary resources for production in every respect.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: Another point to which the sincere young people in these committees must pay attention is that today, with the mechanization of agriculture in the world, it is no longer feasible to give a few acres of land to someone; the ability and capability of individuals must be taken into account and those who are able should be given barren land, as much as they need, to revitalize.

According to this report, the amount of 2.7 million rials was offered to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri by the seven-member committees throughout the country to aid the fronts in the imposed war.

Also, the amount of 1.2 million rials from the employees of Pars shortening factory, through the Islamic society of that factory; 1 million rials from the employees of Hamarag company, affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce, through its Islamic society; and 650,000 rials from the self-sacrificing people of Narq, through the Friday imam of that city, were presented to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to aid the fronts of the imposed war.

MONTAZERI: UNIVERSITIES MUST BE ACADEMICALLY ENHANCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] Qom. Dr Fazel, the minister of culture and higher education, accompanied by Dr Vahid, the director of the Red Crescent, met and spoke with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In this meeting, after the discussion of some of the existing problems in the universities and decisions to eliminate them, praising the efforts of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, he said: If we want to stand on our own feet in the future in regards to science and industry and to be independent of foreigners, we have no other way but to strengthen the scientific capability of the universities and to raise the level of education and knowledge in the universities. For this reason, in planning and projects, the true value of science and the university must be preserved. This does not mean that other institutions are without value. Every institution must be praised for what it is.

We must not divert the universities from their scientific course because we value the fronts and other institutions.

In this connection, he said: Following my recent statements concerning the institutions giving a share to universities, about which I had said certain things, a critical letter from some of the dear brothers who serve in some of the institutions and the fronts reached me, and I find it necessary to point out that we must not divert the universities away from their scientific course for the sake the fronts and other institutions. In the long run, this would be detrimental to the universities and their scientific progress. The extraordinary value of our combatants is preserved with God, and our nation and government has honored and will honor them. I propose that the government devise programs in technological, industrial, or artistic fields for the combative brothers or those who serve in other institutions so that they are able to engage in beneficial and industrial work

alongside their sacred struggle and through good salaries and other incentives make arrangements so that if these dear combative brothers and strugglers are unable to enter into scientific and specialized fields in the universities, they can gain significant achievements in industrial, technical, or artistic fields which are needed by the revolution and not be deprived of service.

Rationing in the universities is not a proper thing because it will result in the stagnation of scholarly values in the universities.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: In my opinion, if every institution is given shares, we must not discriminate between them. The police department, the army, and the theological center must be given the same privileges. All of these are institutions of the Islamic Republic and are valuable. In my opinion, rationing is not proper at all and will cause stagnation in the scientific value of universities. Privileges must be given to the institutions in a way that the rights of those dear brothers are not overlooked.

Directives of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri for the Selection of Authorities of the Universities

Concerning not monopolizing knowledge and science, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: Although I am aware of and praise the sincerity of the brothers in charge of admissions, I should say that they should not deprive someone from studying or teaching at the universities based on some weak suspicions without significant documentation or for some small transgressions. This will be detrimental to the revolution and the country. For this reason, recently, the Supreme Judicial Council established a court for investigating the situation of such individuals who have been kept from the universities which was, in my opinion, a very necessary and timely action and its endorsement and strengthening will be in the interests of Islam and the revolution. He added: Of course, those who intend to make propaganda against the revolution and Islam in the universities and to disturb the atmosphere must not be allowed to be active, but must be dealt with decisively.

10,000
CSO: 4640/ 113

PRESIDENT URGES STUDENTS TO BECOME POLITICALLY ACTIVE

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] On the occasion of God's day, 4 November, yesterday before noon, a large group of the members of the union of Islamic student societies of Tehran, the student unit of the Islamic Republican Party, the Islamic society of the educational complex of Martyr Mohebbi (for the blind), the Valiy-ye 'Asr Islamic society, and the students of Qom met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president.

In this meeting, the president explained in detail the incidents of the historical day of 4 November. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i emphasized the necessity for continuation of the decisive struggle against global oppression on all dimensions and said:

The Islamic revolution has thus far struck the harshest blows against its global enemies and the aggressors against the Islamic country of Iran. Today, in spite of all the negative propaganda of the enemies of the revolution, the great global policies tremble because of our Muslim people and our Islamic revolution to the marrow of their bones.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i pointed out the importance of the presence of the young people and students on the scene and added: Global oppression is terrified of the presence of the young people and the students on the scene. So far, they have been able to frighten nations through their propaganda, and this has been the greatest secret of their success. But the Muslim nation of Iran has not been and will by no means be frightened by the global powers.

Today, no one in this Islamic land, from the authorities of the country to the individual people, is afraid of the Americans. Of course, everyone despises them. All of our people are disgusted

by U.S. domination and the U.S. leaders and their tyranny. This is the result of our Muslim people's awareness and alertness.

The president added: By relying on God, we have thus far been able to show the magnificence of the revolution in all fields of struggle, both on the military and political scenes, as well as the revolutionary methods which our Islamic regime has followed so far.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i recounted the duties of the students under the present circumstances of the revolution and addressing them said: You are the beloved messengers of a bright and hopeful future for the Islamic revolution. You have been nurtured in the best period of the country.

The revolution belongs to you. You will be responsible for managing the country tomorrow and it is your behavior, decisions, understanding, and vision which will determine the future of this society. You, dear students, must pay attention to the point that your education and training will determine the future of this country.

The president considered self-construction as the important factor in fighting the threats of the enemies and emphatically spoke to the students about self-construction, purging, the growth of Islamic ideas, and active presence on the scene, adding: Presence on the political scene is not contrary to studying and scholarly growth. You must not think that your presence on the political scene means that you must leave your studies or give them second priority. You must note that the main principle is self-construction on the part of the young people and learning. Along with it, political activity must also exist.

The president considered the three incidents of the imam's exile to Turkey, the massacre of the students by the U.S. agents, and the siege of the spy nest as being on the same line and said: Those bullets, which on 4 November 1978 struck the innocent bodies of students, were shot with the will and decision of those who sent the imam into exile.

All the bitter incidents that we suffered during the period of long struggle resulted from the same policy and the pro-American, domineering regime. In fact, the struggle of the Muslim people of Iran before the victory of the Islamic revolution was an overall struggle with the U.S. regime.

Continuing his statements, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i referred to the anniversary of the siege of the U.S. spy nest by the Muslim students following the line of the imam, recounted the effects of

this action, and said: The incident of the siege of the spy nest, in fact, frustrated the ability of the Americans to bring this policy into Iran, and this was a very valuable gain for us. The global dimension of this incident was also very deep. The Americans realized that when a policy is tyrannical, nations will not submit. Of course, they must learn a lesson, but, unfortunately, superpowers are slow learners and are slow to understand historical incidents.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i added: The nations also learned a lesson from this incident and realized that much can be done to fight the domineering policies of the United States which question their prestige. Considering these effects, we must realize the value of this action and honor this historical day.

10,000
CSO: 4640/148

IRAN

RAFSANJANI: WE DO NOT INTEND TO IMPOSE OUR MESSAGE BY FORCE

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 1 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] Tuesday afternoon, Dr Velayati, accompanied by the ambassadors and attaches of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Europe and the United States, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis.

In this meeting, Mr Hashemi referred to the benefits of gatherings, discussions and seminars in clarifying the actions of the ambassadors and said: We benefit from the information you provide from various parts of the world and if there is need for improvements and change, we will make use of them to improve the existing situation. He added: Fortunately, the imam's statements were very clear and provided solutions.

It was because of your seminar that our beloved imam expressed the spirit of the issue and clarified the problems both for you abroad and for us inside the country. His statements must be interpreted and analyzed through the media, the analysts, and those who understand his statements in order to clarify them. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Two important points were made in his statements which relate directly to our present and future actions. One of them everyone knows; it has become one of the people's slogans. The issue that cannot be hidden, which no one intends to do, is that of the exportation of the Islamic revolution. The Islamic revolution does not confine its mission to geographical boundaries; it considers delivery of the message of the revolution, which is the same as Islam, as one of its duties. Of course, the manner in which the revolution is to be exported is a very important issue. This phrase means something different in the common international lexicon than what we had offered. Others understand something else of exportation of revolution. They think that the message and the meaning of a revolution must be forcefully imposed on others. If so, such does not exist in our revolution.

Pointing out that we have never even used force domestically to convince the people, Mr Rafsanjani said: The principle of no

reluctance in religion is accepted as a necessary and constant principle by all Muslims. Therefore, the method of force and imposition is not what we have in mind to export our ideas and tendencies. In this framework, we have always declared that we do not want to keep our ideas for ourselves, that we first address Muslims and then anyone else who is bothered by the forceful currents dominating the world. Our adversaries are the autocratic governments. We have no quarrel with oppressed governments. We only speak to the nations and raise the issues with them. The imam has most openly mentioned the names of several countries with which we cannot have relations. We cannot have relations with South Africa, in which 2 or 3 million white people mistreat millions of black people and have polluted Africa and Oceania. As for Israel, it is a usurper by nature. A group of Zionists have made several million people refugees through the power of the money and political and economic support of the usurping, monstrous autocrats and have inflicted upon the region an arms race and other problems. The United States must also be rejected for the situation that exists between us. The claws of that country can be seen held over the heads of all the oppressed people in all countries, and it has especially mistreated us. Traces of its actions can be seen from the time of the shah and in the course of the revolution. The imposed war, the spy nest, permission for dirty spy activities against the Iranian nation, and the Tabas and many other incidents are among the conspiratorial acts of the United States. It is not in our interests to have relations with the United States. Many of the dormant, stung counterrevolutionary snakes may once again be rejuvenated and repeat their crimes should we resume relations with the United States. In this connection, the imam has stressed that as long as the United States continues this policy, we should not have relations with it. Then, stating that by creating relations and open areas, we must speak our minds and speak of our rights by benefitting from newspapers and podiums, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: While we have relations with others, through various methods and in a proper manner, we must deliver the message of the revolution. Essentially, we oppose impolite reproaches, hurting other persons without any reason, and giving the enemy an excuse to appear that he has been wronged. This Koranic principle obliges us to call the people to truth through logic, wisdom, and proper conduct. It is a principle which is accepted; there has been no interpreter who would not consider good and proper conduct a virtue. When there is logic, there is no need to create an atmosphere, blackmail, and imposition. Therefore, since we are right, we must take the upper hand in the issues. A policy of taking the upper hand must always be kept in mind. Under no circumstances must we allow ourselves to feel obliged to others. We must not permit falsehood to take the upper hand. A person to whom something is owed must demand his right before everyone else. Referring to the issue of OPEC, the speaker of the Majlis said: The members of OPEC wait until plans

have been made to reduce prices and then they put up a defense. We must be the ones to propose raising or lowering prices. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Therefore, Islamic logic does not allow falsehood to take the upper hand. If we did not have rights, we would not raise the issue at all; but we have the right, and by taking the upper hand and with the firmness of an ambassador of the Islamic Republic, we declare it to the whole world. In doing so, take advantage of newspapers and the mass media resources. The whole world must know the crimes and treachery of these powers against us. Then, in connection with the belief that we must speak with firmness, the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council said: We frankly told those individuals who came to Iran as a goodwill delegation to condemn Saddam and then come to Iran to talk to us.

10,000
CSO: 4640/128

IRAN

BRIEFS

MASHHAD-BUSHEHR AIRROUTE INAUGURATED--On the occasion of the birthday of Imam Mohammad Baqer, the direct Bushehr-Mashhad airroute of the Islamic Republic airlines was inaugurated. According to an IRNA report, in these ceremonies in which the temporary Friday imam, the governor general of Bushehr, and a number of military, economic, and administrative authorities of the province were present, the deputy manager of the airlines of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the expansion of the activities of HOMA since the victory of the revolution and said: The general policy of this company is to implement the principle of the decentralization of air transport activities and attention to the deprived areas of the country. On the basis of this policy, domestic and inter-city flights have increased and this will continue. Then a group of the families of the martyrs of Bushehr, accompanied by the temporary Friday imam of Bushehr and several authorities of the province, left for Mashhad as guests on the first flight. This report indicates that the supervisor of the Bushehr airline office announced that the flights of the Islamic Republic airlines on the Mashhad-Bushehr route, including return flights, will be on Sundays and Wednesdays every week.
[Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 29 Oct 84 p 2] 10,000

IRAQI LEADER CONDEMNS SADDAM--Damascus, Nov 12 (IRNA)--Leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq, Mas'ud Barezani has told the Arabic daily Teshrin that the Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein has embroiled Iran in an unwanted war in the interest of the United States, but has long since been bogged down in a miserable quagmire with no prospect of escape. The daily which has published in its Monday issue the test of a recent interview with the Kurdish party leader, also quotes him as saying that Iraq's invasion of Iran is a threat to peace in the region and that Saddam's fall from power would be the first step for a peaceful end to the war and establishment of a popular government in Iraq. Barezani is also critical of Saddam Hussein for backing away from the 1975 Algiers Agreement with Iran, and has told the daily that despite his (Saddam's) unilateral abrogation of the Algiers agreement he has now given up his wishful ambition and would heartily consent to a recognition of that pact. Speaking elsewhere in his interview with the paper, Barezani criticized the Iraqi ruler for entering into an agreement with Turkey allowing Turkish troops to enter parts of Iraqi territory for suppressing the Kurds of Iraq. He has described Saddam's deal with the Turkish government as one suiting the taste of "imperialists and Zionists." [Text]
[Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Nov 84 p 2]

EXPORT VALUE INCREASE--The country's non-petroleum exports have increased in value 24 percent in the first 6 months of this year over a comparable period last year. Based on an Iranian customs report concerning the country's foreign trade balance in the first six months of this year, in regards to imports, 9,244 tons of goods at a value of 730,283,000,000 rials were imported into the country, which indicates a decrease of 12 percent in weight and 5 percent in value over a comparable period last year. During the same period, 107,000 tons of non-petroleum products at a value of 14,745,000,000 rials were exported from the country, which indicates an increase of 17 percent in weight and 29 percent in value over a comparable period last year. The increase in the export of goods such as caviar, shrimp, fresh and frozen fish, ferrous oxide, and zinc ore is the main reason for the general increase in exports during the first half of this year. Based on this report, the export of goods such as caviar has increased by 97 percent, fresh and frozen fish by 233 percent, shrimp by 391 percent, ferrous oxide by 151 percent, and zinc ore by 617 percent over a comparable period last year. During the same period and compared to a similar period last year, exports have decreased as follows: raisins by 56 percent, fried fruits by 95 percent, ceramic tiles and chinaware by more than 91 percent, pharmaceutical products by 97 percent, and vehicles by 99 percent in terms of value. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 31 Oct 84 p 4] 10,000

ESFAHAN RAIL EXPANSION--Operations to build a railroad from Esfahan railway station to the city's customs has begun. According to an IRNA report, this line, which will be 5 km long, will be completed in 2 phases at a cost of 80 million rials by the end of this year. In an interview with IRNA, the director of Esfahan customs referred to the importance of Esfahan customs in terms of the loading and unloading of goods and said: With the creation of this railroad, Esfahan customs will be connected directly to two entry and departure points, Jolfa and Bandar 'Abbas, by rail and in this way will divert the costly loading and unloading at the railroad station to the customs. In conclusion, the director of Esfahan customs announced that during the first six months of this year, unloading at customs reached 134,407 tons; goods loaded, 117,963 tons; and goods released, 227,503 tons. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 7 Nov 84 p 8] 10,000

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